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REAGAN PUTS 'NEW OBSTACLES' IN WAY OF DISARMAMENT

LD042025 Moscow TASS in English 2009 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Washington May 4 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports.

A statement by President Reagan on arms control talks published by the White House today advances the proposals that place new obstacles in the way toward reaching agreements on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and on strategic arms reduction. The statement says that President Reagan has directed the U.S. negotiator at the talks on strategic arms to intensify efforts to reach agreement on reducing strategic nuclear arms and that the United States will shortly table a draft treaty text. The draft will stipulate that both the United States and the Soviet Union would commit themselves not to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty only through 1994.

The statement proposes to begin the implementation of strategic offensive arms reductions by cutting them by 50 percent over seven years from entry into force of a strategic arms reduction agreement. And regardless of when such an agreement is concluded it is envisaged that the work to create and the plans to deploy "Strategic Defence Initiative" systems will remain intact even after 1994. The statement says that either side "could deploy defensive systems of its choosing unless mutually agreed otherwise." Thus, it is actually envisaged that while the talks on the reduction of strategic offensive arms, which are needed for neutralising SDI, will be under way, the United States will be busy preparing the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems with space-basing elements.

As to the question of reaching agreement on the elimination of medium-range weapon systems in Europe, the questions of verification and control are raised again, even though the Soviet Union has already advanced detailed proposals in this area, to which the statement does not give any concrete answer. The statement also categorically rejects the need to eliminate shorter-range missiles with which other countries, besides the USSR and the USA, are armed. (This refers to U.S. Pershing-1 missiles deployed in the FRG territory, which were formally adopted for service by the Bundeswehr, but which are controlled by the USA. -- TASS correspondent)

The statement also contains attacks on the United States Congress for the striving of many of its members to cut the military appropriations demanded by the administration for the 1988 fiscal year, above all for the SDI. The statement says that the President will veto any bill which cuts the appropriations.

Proposals 'Complicate' Talks

LD050928 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Washington May 5 TASS -- The White House has issued a written statement by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in connection with the 8th round of Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms opening in Geneva.

The statement made proposals that complicate even further the Soviet-U.S. talks for achieving agreements on both strategic arms and medium-range missiles in Europe.

The statement said that Reagan had directed the leader of the U.S. delegation to the talks on strategic arms "to intensify efforts to reach agreement on reducing" such arms by 50 percent and that the United States would shortly table a draft agreement toward that end.

The draft, the statement asserted, would reflect "the basic agreements on strategic arms reductions" reached during the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik.

"We (the Soviet Union and the United States) have made great progress in START (Strategic Arms Reductions Talks)," the statement said further.

The President proposed that the two countries commit not to withdraw from the treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems through 1994, rather than for ten years as suggested by the Soviet Union.

He proposed at the same time that 50 percent cuts be made in strategic offensive arms over seven years from the entry into force of a START agreement.

The President added that regardless of the signing date of such an agreement, after 1994 "either side (the Soviet Union or the United States) could deploy defensive systems of its choosing, unless mutually agreed otherwise."

This effectively means that while talks will be under way on strategic offensive arms reductions, the United States will press along with full-scale preparations for deploying anti-ballistic missile systems with space-based elements as early as 1994, which will rule out a START agreement completely.

The assertion in the presidential statement that the U.S. negotiators had been instructed to "intensify" the talks just does not square with this circumstance.

As to the issue of reaching an agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) missiles in Europe, the statement said that "there have been some new developments in these talks," that the Soviet draft treaty "appears to reflect the agreements" made in Reykjavik and that the U.S. side was "studying carefully" the Soviet draft.

But the President's statement then immediately raised verification issues again, although the Soviet Union had already detailed proposals on that score.

The statement did not give a concrete response to those proposals, while stressing that, in the U.S opinion, they did not meet requirements for the inspection of sites suspected of violations of an INF agreement.

The statement attacked U.S Congress for the desire by many law-makers "to attach" to the defense authorization bill for fiscal 1988 amendments on arms control, which would allegedly "undermine our most vital defense programs -- such as our Strategic Defense Initiative."

The amendments meant are proposals made by a significant number of congressmen to slash the administration's request for military spending, including funding for SDI, somewhat, bind the United States to return to within the limits ofthe SALT-2 treaty and stay there, and ban appropriations for nuclear testing involving yields of over one kiloton.

The statement said the President would veto any bill with those amendments.

The statement by the White House chief drew criticisms from the American press. After recalling that the White House was being "optimistic" about a possibility of concluding an INF agreement and holding a summit, THE WASHINGTON POST said the President's statement had given rise to doubts about the success.

NEW ROUND OF SOVIET-U.S. ARMS TALKS OPENS 5 MAY

LD050801 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 5 May 87

[Georgiy Alekseyev report]

[Excerpt] The latest round of Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons opens today in Geneva. The question of concluding a treaty on eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe will be at the center of attention. Realistic chances of reaching an accord on this question are given by the recent Soviet proposals.

The third stage of the Vienna meeting of representatives of states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe begins today in the Austrian capital. Over to our correspondent Viktor Mikheyev:

[Mikheyev] A large number of the proposals put forward by the delegations on all questions -- there are over 130 of them -- are being seen as evidence of the states' growing interest in the consistent development of the process of security and cooperation in Europe. The USSR's position at the Vienna meeting is indissolubly linked with the radical transformations taking place in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has drawn attention to the decisions of the committee of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states in Moscow, which made a statement in favor of developing the pan-European process and a successful conclusion to the Vienna meeting. [passage omitted]

Vorontsov on Current Round

LD042205 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Soviet-American negotiations in Geneva on nuclear and space weapons are resuming in full-scale form on Tuesday. The medium-range missile group gathered earlier, on 23 of last month, to start drafting a treaty on the elimination of this type of weapons in Europe. The chief Soviet delegate, Yuliy Vorontsov, said upon his arrival in Geneva that the Soviet Union believed that the treaty could be prepared already in the course of the current eighth round.

VIENNA CSCE DELIBERATIONS RESUME 5 MAY

LD051201 Moscow TASS in English 1146 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Vienna May 5 TASS -- Following a brief interval the Vienna meeting of representatives of the states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe resumed its deliberations today.

It entered a crucial stage of the drafting of a final document that should reflect accords acceptable to all and outline new joint measures in the military, political, commercial, economic and humanitarian fields called upon to promote the further development of the Helsinki process.

There exists a foundation for such accords -- the delegates submitted about 140 proposals dealing with different aspects of European cooperation.

Yuriy Kashlev, the head of the Soviet delegation, called the attention of the participants to a concrete program set forth by the Soviet leadership with the aim of demilitarizing Europe and called for intensified efforts at the Vienna meeting and in the current consultations of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO representatives in Vienna on new talks concerning the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

TALKS ON NUCLEAR RISK REDUCTION CENTERS END

LD042241 Moscow TASS in English 2230 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Geneva May 5 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Vladislav Shishlo:

Soviet-American talks on establishing nuclear risk reduction centres came to a close here Monday. As a result of the deliberations the delegations prepared a joint draft agreement between the USSR and the United States on setting up nuclear risk reduction centres and two draft protocols. The texts of the agreed upon documents will be submitted for confirmation to the governments of the two countries.

A practical step has been made towards implementing the agreement reached during the Geneva meeting in November 1985 between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on studying at expert level the question of nuclear risk reduction centres.

The delegations to the talks were headed: From the Soviet side -- by ambassador at large Aleksey Obukhov, from the American side -- by Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle and the President's special assistant for national security Robert Linhard.

NAZARKIN ON GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE RESULTS

OW041421 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 2 May 87

[From the Vremya newscast, interview with Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva Disarmament Conference]

[Text] The spring session of the Disarmament Conference has ended in Geneva. Our correspondent interviewed Comrade Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation.

[Nazarkin] The attention of the participants in the session was naturally attracted, first of all, to such questions as a ban on nuclear tests, nuclear disarmament, and prevention of the arms race in space. Our delegation, together with the delegations of fraternal socialist states and with the support from nonaligned countries, worked toward beginning talks on all these questions and aimed at reaching international agreements on these problems.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to do this. Talks of this kind were not initiated at this session due to the resistance, first of all, of the United States. Nevertheless, talks were conducted on another problem, that is on the problem of banning chemical weapons. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's recent Prague declaration, in which he announced that the Soviet Union had ceased manufacturing of chemical weapons outside of its national borders, had a tremendous stimulating effect on the course of the talks. Now delegates are returning to their capitals with the aim of assessing the work done at the spring session.

DOBRYNIN ADDRESSES MEDIA EDITORS ON DISARMAMENT

LD041203 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1003 GMT 4 May 87

["Speech by Anatoliy Dobrynin at Meeting of Editors of Communist and Democratic Press" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 4 May (TASS) -- The role of the press in the struggle for progress, social justice, and the peaceful future of the planet was discussed in Moscow at a meeting of editors of the communist and democratic press.

A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today addressed the participants. Today's meeting of representatives of the communist and democratic press, he said, is taking place at an interesting, complex, and -- it can be said -- unusual time: in the year of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and at a time when the Land of the Soviets has entered upon a qualitatively new stage of its development associated with the radical restructuring of all social relations.

The speaker expounded in detail the principled foundations of the international course of the CPSU and of Soviet foreign policy. M.S. Gorbachev, he said, has defined the foreign-political program of the CPSU that was put forward at its 27th congress as an amalgam of the philosophy of forming a secure world in the nuclear space age together with a platform of concrete actions.

The modern Soviet philosophy of foreign policy has already found weighty expression in the brief words: "New thinking in the nuclear age." For us Soviet Communists, the new thinking is a creative development and application of Marxist teaching to modern conditions. It involves a restructuring of interstate relations, too. Our foreign policy purpose, which is aimed toward bringing about a radical change for the better in the international situation, means seeking and finding ways of correctly applying these principles to the new situation, and waging the struggle for our ideals on a new scale, using new methods. This gives reliable guidelines for understanding initiatives of whatever kind in our foreign policy, and for understanding the motives for all its present pace and further development.

We live in an epoch where the objective contradictions between the exploiters and the exploited have not been removed in the greater part of the world, and, consequently, where the struggle between diverse social and political forces for one social order or another is both inevitable and rightful. But Marx and Engels did not separate the fundamental interests of the working class for the interests of mankind as a whole. The uniqueness of the present stage of historical development is such that in the nuclear age it is essential to win the struggle for the survival of mankind, even before removing the aforementioned contradictions. This has become the essential prerequisite for resolving all other political, social, economic, and cultural tasks.

At the moment, A.F. Dobrynin went on to note, the most important postulate of a responsible foreign policy must be the realization of a simple fact: Nuclear means cannot be used to achieve any reasonable goals whatsoever in the international arena. Another similar postulate is that it is no longer possible to win an arms race, just as it is impossible to win a nuclear war itself. Moreover, this race reduces the likelihood of halting mankind from slipping toward nuclear catastrophe. This means that taking into account the critical factor of time becomes one of the important elements of new thinking.

The machinery of nuclear deterrence is not reliable. "The balance of fear" is already ceasing to be a factor of military and political restraint, all the more so as the temptation may arise on one side to "forestall" the other. More weaponry at the moment does not mean more security, but rather less. In present conditions, only political means are fit to guarantee it. To act by political methods means to take into account, to take into consideration the interests of the other side. The security of each state is unthinkable without equal security for all.

Guided namely by all this philosophical conception of peace, the CPSU has elaborated the foundations of an all-embracing system of international security, which constitutes the most generalized expression of our new approaches in international politics.

Currently, the issue of the urgent resolution of security matters in the military sphere is most acute. The first and the main demand of the new thinking is the recognition of both the necessity and the possibility of a nuclear-free world. A practical expression of this requirement is the statement by M.S. Gorbachev on 15 January 1986 containing a program for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the 20th century. The reality of nuclear disarmament was clearly demonstrated in Reykjavik.

The Soviet Union, the speaker recalled, proceeds from the position that the level of armaments must be reduced to the limit of reasonable sufficiency, that is, to the limit necessary for the resolution of only defensive tasks. In recent years a number of opposition social-democratic parties in Western Europe have been putting forward various concepts of "nonoffensive defense."

This is a step in the right direction. Here is a topic for the comparison of views and exchanges of opinions.

Through the efforts of the Soviet Union, the complex of nuclear disarmament issues has been placed on a new, radical level for which the West has proven to be unprepared. The emphasis on eliminating nuclear arms by whole categories of weapons, and not on limiting them quantitatively, has overturned NATO's traditional ideas, and has posed with even greater acuteness the question of the need for new thinking in its approach to nuclear disarmament issues. In precisely this way also, the USSR has shown initiative in formulating a conceptual approach to the parameters and principles of reducing conventional forces and defining the balance of these forces.

Steps that exclude the possibility of a sudden attack are of great significance. Monitoring disarmament [kontrol za razoruzheniyem] is a becoming one of the most important forms of ensuring security, and will lead to a qualitative change in the very nature of international relations.

A vitally important element in preventing a nuclear catastrophe is ensuring political security. In this task the most important thing is the assertion of international trust. Trust and disarmament are, of course, closely interconnected problems. One is impossible without the other. Such are the dialectics of world politics today. In our view, however, it is in principle wrong to say that first there should be trust, then everything else will follow -- disarmament, cooperation and joint projects. The reverse would hardly be right, either: first disarmament, then trust some time later. We believe that movement must be made through common efforts toward strengthening trust, and that this will help achieve further progress in disarmament and cooperation, too.

In advocating the peaceful coexistence of states, A.F. Dobrynin stressed, the Soviet Union is naturally of the opinion that this does not negate, but presupposes the right of every nation to choose with sovereignty the paths and forms of its development.

The Soviet Union sharply condemns the policy of "neoglobalism." We believe that regional conflicts must not be turned into arenas of deliberate confrontation or a policy of confrontation between the two systems. The settlement of regional conflicts is for us a task dictated by the logic of the interdependent and integral nature of the world.

The new thinking must also find expression in economic relations. The concept of economic security is one of the components of the foundations of an all-embracing international security system put forward at the 27th CPSU Congress.

Soviet foreign policy philosophy includes as one of its integral elements the humanization of international relations. The CPSU sees a real path toward this in sharply raising the level of contacts between people and organizations, parties and public movements: in other words, in transforming interstate relations into genuinely international relations. We regard making things public, openness [glasnost, otkrytost] in international affairs as a method of asserting diplomacy genuinely of the people. Work that has unfolded in our country to strengthen socialist legality and law and order and that is aimed at guaranteeing basic civil freedoms and rights for Soviet citizens even more reliably is placing a good foundation beneath the extension of international humanitarian cooperation.

On the eve of the 21st century the struggle for human rights is being placed upon the international agenda more and more insistently. We Soviet Communists believe that freedom from the exploitation of one man by another is a most important prerequisite for ensuring all human rights and freedoms in a real way. We are in favor of implementing in reality the whole set of rights and freedoms that have been put forward by the struggle and the political demands of the workers' and the democratic movement. The USSR has proposed that a conference on humanitarian cooperation be held in Moscow. Such a conference could mark a new stage in humanitarian cooperation.

From the very nature of our foreign-political philosophy, said the speaker, from the aims and methods inherent in it, flows the idea of a composition of the efforts of all states, regardless of their social systems, in the struggle for lasting peace and international security. It is natural that for us this presupposes above all a strengthening of the cooperation of the socialist countries. Today a major factor in the formation of the new thinking and in the struggle against war, militarism and imperialism is the Nonaligned Movement. Mass democratic movements of many kinds offer great and ever-growing opportunities for establishing the new thinking in world politics, as has been confirmed by the forum 'For a Nuclear-Free World, for Human Survival' which was held in Moscow. In the struggle against the danger of world war and for disarmament, dialogue is possible and necessary between forces of various, and even opposite, sociopolitical and ideological orientation. But such dialogue is especially important in the framework of the communist movement and of all the working class, revolutionary-democratic and national-democratic movements.

Today, when PRAVDA is celebrating its 75th anniversary, it is apposite to recall the great importance its founder, V.I. Lenin, attributed to the press. In his view, the advanced democratic press not only educate, but also facilitates the organization of the masses' struggle against the forces of reaction and militarism. In our time, this means knowing how to find psychologically accurate approaches to the mass reader, how to emancipate his consciousness from the dogmas and stererotypes imposed upon him by imperialist propaganda, above all from the "image of the enemy," by conducting an honest and committed dialogue with people.

The foreign policy philosophy worked out by our party, A.F. Dobrynin said in conclusion, rests upon the Soviet Union's 70 years of experience in conducting a peace-loving course in the international arena. It illuminates in a concentrated way the link between the times -- from Lenin's decree on peace, which proclaimed the task of establishing a general democratic peace on "conditions just for all ethnic groups without exception," to the program put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress for creating an all-embracing system of international security and building a nonnuclear, nonviolent world.

Our party will be true to the Leninist tradition and to Leninist innovation in its approach to the critically important problems of international politics that have emerged so acutely at the end of the second millenium of our era.

SPANISH PAPER INTERVIEWS KARPOV ON ARMS PROPOSALS

PM050818 Madrid YA in Spanish 29 Apr 87 pp 10-11

[Interview with Soviet roving ambassador Viktor Karpov by Enrique Serbeto in Madrid; date not given]

[Excerpt] Madrid -- [Passage omitted] [Serbeto] I would like to start by discussing the proposal that the Soviet Union made in Geneva yesterday for reducing medium-range missiles in Europe.

[Karpov] Actually we have already discussed this proposal, during U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' latest visit to Moscow. All of us who were there -- and I am referring not to myself alone but also to CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, the prime minister, and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze -- discussed the need to find a solution to the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe as quickly as possible. We proposed a plan to eliminate them under the conditions agreed at the Reykjavik summit. The draft proposal that the United States put forward in March included certain clauses that were inconsistent with what was agreed in Reykjavik, since the United States aimed solely to secure advantages for themselves, not equality for both sides. Following the discussions with Shultz in Moscow the Soviet side proposed a draft agreement to eliminate all medium-range missiles.

[Serbeto] Did you discuss tactical nuclear weapons as well?

[Karpov] Yes, of course we discussed them because we are also willing to reduce tactical nuclear weapons because we believe that these matters must be discussed in these negotiations and not in separate negotiations. If, moreover, we take account of the U.S. Pershing-1B weapon, we know they can be converted into Pershing-2s in just 48 hours. It seems that the United States is only thinking about changing the designation of each kind of weapon. The crucial point in the discussions is whether these accords can open the way to the elimination of all nuclear weapons from Europe. I recall the NATO "two track" decision of 1979 which mentioned not tactical weapons but Euromissiles, because it was said that the chief threat was the SS-20 missile and that if this threat disappeared so too would the need to deploy these nuclear forces, the U.S. Pershing-2s and cruise missiles. But now the withdrawal of these Soviet missiles is considered insufficient. They are talking about not only nuclear forces but also the need to reduce conventional forces.

Conventional Forces [subhead]

[Serbeto] We could talk about these conventional forces later, but it must also be remembered that the Soviet Union deployed its SS-20s because of the threat it said the French and British nuclear forces presented. [paragraph continues]

Does the fact that it has been agreed to dismantle the SS-20s without any offset mean that this threat no longer exists?

[Karpov] Of course this threat still exists and the French and British nuclear forces will be broached later. Indeed France and Britain possess 1,500-1,600 nuclear warheads. By 1992 they will have approximately 2,000 that will have to be taken into account within the context of Europe's nuclear situation. This is a considerable factor and all these nuclear warheads cannot be said to have no significance in the balance of forces, which is why, by giving our approval for the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe, we are opening the way with a certain degree of risk. We are doing so consistently in order to achieve nuclear disarmament in Europe later on.

[Serbeto] Is your aim with these proposals not, rather, to exploit the lack of agreement that exists between certain European governments in order to eliminate medium-range missiles for fear of their superiority in conventional weapons?

[Karpov] We are only aiming to eliminate nuclear weapons from Europe and if we miss this opportunity perhaps never again in history will another situation like this recur. There is also a risk to our security and we are willing to seriously negotiate the reduction of conventional weapons as well. But those who do not really want the elimination of nuclear weapons are trying to frighten us with this excuse. We too are in favor of such negotiations but unfortunately our partners in the talks have not shown a willingness to revive these negotiations, though for our part we have not abandoned hope of making this an effective forum so that all countries can again discuss these problems and find the road to disarmament. However, this is not all. We have proposed establishing a 300 km wide nuclear-free strip between NATO and the Warsaw Pact in the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and FRG. Gorbachev announced on 10 April that if the West accepts this proposal we are willing to eliminate all our nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles within this strip.

Gorbachev's Change [subhead]

[Serbeto] Be that as it may, the Soviet disarmament stance has changed greatly since 1985, as shown by its constant offers of a moratorium on nuclear testing or Euromissiles reduction. Is this due solely to Mikhail Gorbachev's accession to power?

[Karpov] Undoubtedly. He has provided a new and much more progressive viewpoint on these problems, though an influence was also exerted by the party's own conclusions and the viewpoint of broad social sectors, reflecting a new approach to this issue.

[Serbeto] But even supposing that this agreement to reduce missiles deployed in Europe is reached, there is still the huge aresenal of ICBM weapons and the ABM Treaty.

[Karpov] During Shultz' visit to Moscow we proposed maintaining moderation in connection with intercontinental strategic weapons so that from a date to be decided by the two countries neither would increase its arsenal, but we are still waiting for Washington's reply. In Reykjavik we also said that we considered it possible to reduce arsenals by half in 5 years, but on condition that the ABM Treaty would not be abandoned in 10 years' time. Now in Moscow Mr Shultz has said that it will take 7 years to reduce strategic missiles by 50 percent. As for the ABM Treaty, we believe that the United States is exceeding its limits by constructing two radar installations, one in Greenland and the other in Britain. They criticize us for constructing another radar installation at Krasnoyarsk but we cannot accept this comparison because the radar installation is being constructed to observe space, which does not conflict with this treaty. [paragraph continues]

But we are tired of discussing this topic and are prepared to destroy our radar installation if the United States does the same with those that it is constructing in Greenland and Britain, but they do not agree to it.

Development of SDI [subhead]

[Serbeto] In this connection it seems that the only thing that interests you is to oppose the United States' SDI and prevent its development.

[Karpov] As we have already said on other occasions, we are not worried by SDI because we have much less costly equipment to neutralize it militarily, but it seems to us outright madness because it will subject the world to another and greater threat. In Reykjavik we talked about not exceeding the ABM Treaty for a 10 year period and meanwhile continuing research in ground-base laboratories. However, now Mr Shultz comes to Moscow and says "no," that they are only willing to do this for 7 years and suggests to us the signing of an agreement that would permit the United States to deploy its space weapons in 1994; and of course we are not willing to accept this.

[Serbeto] The two superpowers have been negotiating for 40 years without really achieving a reduction of nuclear weapons. What is your overall assessment of this process?

[Karpov] Unfortunately the results of all these years are very meager. However, I could cite some positive achievements in this process, such as the 1963 agreement banning nuclear explosions above ground, in the sea, and in the atmosphere. Also, the 1967 agreement banning placing nuclear weapons in orbit around the Earth. Also, the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, which Spain is to sign soon, as you have announced. One must also add the ABM Treaty limiting antimissile weapons, the SALT I agreement of 1972 and SALT II of 1979 and the confidence-building measures agreed at the CSCE conference in Stockholm.

[Serbeto] What is your opinion about the future?

[Karpov] The outlook will be determined largely during the current talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on eliminating the Euromissiles and also the negotiations within the context of the disarmament conference for eliminating chemical weapons and their stockpiles. It is in these two directions that there are the best chances of reaching an agreement. It is necessary just to work for an acceptable solution that guarantees security on both sides.

Karpov Leaves for Athens

LD291736 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1300 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Viktor Karpov, director general for disarmament [title as heard] at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, left Spain for Athens this morning. Karpov paid a 2-day visit to the Spanish capital to inform our country's authorities of the Soviet proposals on the reduction of armaments between the two superpowers.

RODIONOV VISITS NETHERLANDS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS

LD041403 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Hague May 4 TASS -- Today Nikolay Rodionov, a special envoy of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met with Hans Van Den Broek, minister of foreign affairs of the Netherlands, and with senior officials of the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

He informed them of the results of the talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow.

The information was regarded with much attention.

The Dutch side set out its evaluation of the talks, emphasizing an interest in achieving an agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe as soon as possible.

Nikolay Rodionov also had meetings in the Standing Foreign Affairs Commission of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament, as well as with representatives of the Labour Party leadership.

RETIRED U.S., SOVIET OFFICERS ISSUE STATEMENT

LD291821 Moscow TASS in English 1224 GMT 29 Apr 87

["Joint Statement by Retired Generals" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Washington April 29 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports:

"The continuing arms buildup in the United States and the Soviet Union is increasing the risk of nuclear war and reducing the security of both nations. A positive programme of cooperative actions is necessary to reverse the arms build up," says joint statement adopted at the recently concluded conference of Soviet and U.S. retired generals and admirals in Washington.

The document suggests seven specific measures the realisation of which would contribute to easing international tensions and preventing nuclear war.

"It is for the first time that Soviet generals and admirals have met with American retired military officers to discuss new problems of the present day situation, particularly those in the field of arms control," said the leader of the Soviet delegation, retired Lieutenant General Mikhail Milshtein.

He voiced hope that the conference in Washington would help to broaden mutual understanding and strengthen relations between the two countries, the relations "the state of which is of immense importance for the entire international situation."

The leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out that the Soviet Union suggested a new approach to the arms limitation process, seeking a stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear arsenals.

"The signing of an agreement on medium-range nuclear systems as soon as possible would become a considerable step in the right direction," he emphasized.

WEST'S 'IDEOLOGICAL BLINDERS' BAR CSCE PROGRESS

PM031745 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[Article by Yu. Kashlev, head of the USSR delegation at the Vienna meeting: "The Vienna Meeting: Facing a Crucial Stage"]

[Text] The Vienna meeting of representatives of the 35 CSCE participant states is resuming its work on 5 May.

When it opened at foreign minister level last November a spirit of optimism prevailed in the Vienna Hofburg Palace. It was said that this, the third all-European forum since Helsinki (the previous two were held in Belgrade and Madrid) was taking place in a more favorable international atmosphere, that the horizons that opened up in Reykjavik could contribute to the strengthening of military security in Europe and give a boost to a fuller and more dynamic continuation of the Helsinki process.

Two stages of the Vienna meeting have pased. In the course of 4 months of "net time" (not counting the breaks) some 400 diplomats from 35 countries discussed the progress of the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and the results of the all-European meetings held between Madrid and Vienna and introduced and discussed proposals for future action. Intensive work is under way in parallel at plenary sessions and in the five commissions in accordance with the structure of the Helsinki document, while bilateral and multilateral consultations are also taking place.

How can the situation taking shape at these major current collective talks between socialist and capitalist countries and, in a broader sense, in the all-European process as a whole, be assessed?

The main asset clearly consists in the fact that this process, begun on the initiative of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, has become an integral and positive factor of European and world politics. We have never heard anyone in the Hofburg claiming that this process is unnecessary or useless, and we have never seen anyone trying to disregard the accumulated experience of cooperation. Yet there had been some very pessimistic voices in the past, and in the United States there were even calls to cancel the U.S. signature on the Final Act. Even today Washington views this document without enthusiasm, and that is putting it mildly; however, it does not dare to oppose it openly.

The Europeans' interest in the continuation of the all-European process is borne out not just by the East-West political dialogue, which has intensified of late and in the course of which the importance of Helsinki is invariably mentioned, and not just in the speeches delivered at the Vienna meeting. Almost 140 proposals have already been introduced by the delegations of all the participant countries, including proposals for forums, conferences, and meetings of experts to be held within the next few years with a view to developing cooperation under all the sections of the Final Act. Metaphorically speaking, the tree planted in Helsinki is growing new branches, its crown is getting thicker, and its roots are holding the European soil together.

The current situation in Europe prompts another conclusion in respect of the work of the Vienna meeting. Objective conditions are taking shape for "breathing new life" into the cause of security and cooperation on the continent and imparting a new dynamism and a new scale to it. [paragraph continues]

The program for the reduction of all types of arms -- nuclear missile arms, chemical arms, and conventional arms -- put forward by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries makes it possible to overcome the disarmament impasse in Europe and to fill the biggest gap in the Helsinki process, created by the absence of real military detente.

The opportunity is arising to give new substance to the humanitarian aspect of European cooperation. Broad prospects are opening up for the development of trade and economic cooperation. In these spheres too the impulses come from the socialist part of Europe. Being here in Vienna means that one can see for oneself with what interest our partners are viewing the profound changes taking place in the USSR in democratization, openness, safeguarding human rights, and improving foreign economic relations. Each of our steps in these areas is projected into the future of Europe and East-West relations.

The question currently being asked is: Will the European countries be able to avail themselves of the opportunities that have emerged to enrich the Helsinki process, or will these opportunities be lost? It must be admitted that the latter cannot be ruled out if the political thinking of our Western partners continues to lag behind the emerging trends and to hamper and thwart their translation into reality.

Let us take the topic with which the Helsinki process began -- security in Europe -- and see how it is interpreted at the Vienna meeting. The first proposal introduced there by Poland last December after coordination with the other Warsaw Pact countries makes provision for the continuation, after Vienna, of the Stockholm conference at which confidence-building measures in the military sphere are to be discussed simultaneously with practical steps in disarmament. The socialist countries have introduced a dozen other proposals on various aspects of European security. And the West? To date it has not put forward a single proposal, a single document in this field. Furthermore, the United States and some of its NATO allies are passing over in complete silence at the Vienna meeting the whole range of problems pertaining to security and disarmament, trying to amputate this key element of the all-European process.

"In exchange" so to speak, they have agreed in Vienna to separate consultations in respect to new talks on armed forces and conventional arms in Europe fron the Atlantic to the Urals. However, at the same time, the NATO countries and primarily the United States are, for one thing, opposing the participation in these consultations of all the 35 states, high-handedly trying to exclude neutral and nonaligned countries from them; and, second, rather than discuss reductions of armed forces and conventional armaments, they are proposing to discuss the elimination of military "imbalances" and "asymmetries" in Europe, not necessarily by means of arms reduction but possible also by "arms upgrading." It is clear that in view of these points of reference it will be very difficult to come to an agreement on new talks.

To what end are artificial difficulties created and barriers erected in the path of European disarmament? Why is NATO trying so hard to avoid answering the Warsaw Pact countries' clear proposal put forward in Budapest last year for mutual 25-percent cuts in the armed forces and conventional arms of the two military-political alliances in Europe in the early nineties and the subsequent continuation of this process? To make matters worse, this specific problem is being tightly entangled with the question of nuclear missile weapons. In Geneva they are telling us that the United States and its NATO allies cannot agree to the elimination of missiles in Europe because of the Warsaw Pact's "superiority" in conventional arms and armed forces, and in Vienna they refuse to engage in businesslike talk on these armaments.

Even assuming that a "superiority" exists, would not the elimination of medium-range and operational and tactical missiles and a reduction of conventional arms including battlefield nuclear facilities -- as proposed by the Soviet Union -- reduce military confrontation and enhance the level of security in Europe?

Political thinking manifests itself in approaches to specific matters. "God exists in details," a classical author once said. "In the specifics," we would say today. We are able to see in a concrete example how, with the help of old, bankrupt political thinking, they are trying to prune the Helsinki process and to "outwit" the opponent at the expense of his security interests, avoiding real disarmament themselves, while trying at the same time to deceive the broad public. Who would want to play games like these?

Speaking in Prague recently, M.S. Gorbachev suggested that the foreign ministers of the 35 Helsinki process participant states should meet in Vienna in order to get large-scale talks on European disarmament off the ground. Both the structure of the forums at which it is proposed to discuss all the components of nuclear missile and conventional arms and the nature of the measures put forward by our country are now clear. Reach higher in your thinking in order to take in the whole picture of the opportunities that have opened up, and together let us make the most of Europe's historic chance.

A similar appeal could be issued also in another area to which increasing importance is being attached in recent years. I have in mind human rights and humanitarian contacts. It is no secret that for many years this served as a kind of "irritant" in East-West relations and human rights were, as a rule, discussed in a confrontational spirit. This is also applied to the initial stage of the Vienna meeting.

However, restructuring and democratization in the Soviet Union -- our internal process which stems from the natural laws and requirements of communist building -- have removed many questions on which anti-Soviet propaganda was based for years. We have proposed at the Vienna meeting that a representative conference be convened in Moscow to discuss the whole range of humanitarian cooperation among all the states taking part in the all-European process in the broad context of human rights -- civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

And what answer did we get? To begin with -- amazement, then nervousness and attempts to bargain, to stake out some kind of claims. Are they trying to repeat last year's experience in Bern, when a document on the development of contacts between people agreed upon with the active participation of the socialist countries was not adopted because of U.S. obstruction? Here too there is evidence of a clear deficit of new thinking, of unwillingness to cast off ideological blinders, of fear of losing ground in this (the humanitarian) sector which some people in the West, and in particular across the ocean, consider -- through inertia -- as their trump card.

Nonetheless, the times are changing. New approaches to European and world affairs are emerging, albeit slowly and timidly, in West Europe. Most of the states taking part in the Helsinki process are sincerely interested in progress toward arms reduction, including reduction of the arms that are the subject of consultations in the Austrian capital. Both socialist and capitalist countries have put forward many proposals in Vienna pertaining to trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and environmental protection. These include a Czechoslovak proposal for the convocation of an all-European economic forum, an FRG proposal for the holding of a conference on East-West economic cooperation, an Italian proposal to hold a science forum, and a Bulgarian and Nordic countries' proposal on cooperation in environmental protection.

However, most proposals have been put forward in the area of human rights and humanitarian contacts, and here too they have come frm virtually all countries. Apart from certain maximalist, unrealistic NATO schemes, the proposals submitted could provide a basis for generally acceptable accords.

The Vienna meeting is embarking on the crucial stage of the elaboration of accords and compilation of the final document. Therefore it is particularly important that the West should take steps toward the new thinking displayed by the socialist countries. Without efforts to meet each other half-way it is difficult to imagine a Europe of the future, a Europe of peace and cooperation. This is the thrust of the statement entitled "For the development of the all-European process and the successful conclusion of the Vienna meeting" recently adopted in Moscow by the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers.

INTERNATIONAL TU ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OPENS

LD032027 Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 3 TASS -- The victory of the working class and all working people of Russia in 1917 is an epoch-making event of the 20th century. It marked the beginning of the historical process which shaped the present-day world. This was stated by speakers attending the jubilee international conference on science and practice "70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the Contemporary Trade Union Movement."

The conference opened in Moscow today. Trade union delegations from more than 120 countries are taking part. Gennadiy Yanayev, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Alain Stern, secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, M.S. Krishnan, vice-president of the All-India Congress of Trade Unions, and Jerzy Uzemblo, vice-chairman of Poland's National Trade Union Accord, spoke during the plenary meeting of the conference.

The delegates then met in working groups to discuss the current tasks of trade unions and other organizations of workers. The conference will continue its deliberations tomorrow.

Conference Ends

LD041948 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] A jubilee international trade union scientific practical conference -- the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution and the Contemporary Trade Union Movement -- has ended in Moscow. Taking part in its work were representatives of the trade unions of 122 countries. The tasks of trade unions in the struggle for a nuclear-free world, against the monopolies and particular points of the defense of the socioeconomic rights of the working people in the developing countries were examined. The present day development of the trade union movement in the socialist countries was discussed.

It was noted in the reports and speeches that the international trade union movement is a great influential force today. In developing the experience they have accumulated in a creative way, the communist and workers parties of the socialist countries are helping to broaden interaction with the trade unions, and are creating conditions for enhancing their role in society. It was stressed that the struggle for peace and disarmament in the capitalist and developing countries is inseparably linked with the upholding by the trade unions of the socioeconomic requirements of the working people and their democratic rights and freedoms.

REAGAN SPEECH ON FUNDING CONTRAS VIEWED

LD041322 Moscow TASS in English 1221 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Nikolay Chigir writes:

Each time when the U.S. Administration intends to press U.S. Congress for more allocations running into millions of dollars for the support of the mercenary contras gangs, it hurls torrents of lies and slander at the Sandinista government and accompanies its inventions with malicious anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban propaganda.

Phrase-mongering of this very kind aimed at justifying U.S. aggressive actions whose purpose is to topple the Sandinista government makes up about the whole of the speech delivered by President Reagan before members of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

The head of the White House threatened to severely deal with the Nicaraguan revolution before the end of his term in office. He tried to class Nicaragua as an 'aggressor state' allegedly threatening the security of the whole of the region. It is nothing but a hackneyed trick that has long been used by Washington with the aim to present victims of U.S. aggressions as aggressors.

The fact that Nicaragua is the main victim of U.S. interventionist policy in Central America has been recognized by the world community and by the overwhelming majority of Latin American countries. This follows as well from resolutions and other documents of the U.N., the Organization of American States and the Non-aligned Movement.

Nicaragua is encircled by U.S. military bases. U.S. military exercises are continually held near its borders, including the one held there at the moment which is code-named Solid Shield-87. In the course of it operations are being trained that could be part of an invasion of Nicaragua. Many thousands of peaceful Nicaraguans, including women, children and old people, have been murdered by the assassins from the contras gangs whom President Reagan continues to describe as 'freedom fighters'.

Turning real facts upside down, Reagan announced that democracy was allegedly 'taking root' in Central America and the only country where dictatorship was preserved was no other than Nicaragua. President Reagan does not seem to remember that the dictatorship of the Somoza clan, one of the cruellest dictatorships in the Western hemisphere, was placed in power by Washington. It committed atrocities in Nicaragua for several decades with full support of the U.S. till it was overthrown by the revolutionary Nicaraguan people.

President Reagan maintains that democracy is 'taking root' in El Salvador, among other countries, where the bloody dictatorial regime has turned terror and violence into its state policy. The regime is responsible for the murder and torture to death of 60,000 Salvadorans.

Reagan's assertions to the effect that his administration has invariably supported peace initiatives for Central America, including the Contadora Process, sound as an insult to common sense. It is common knowledge that if the constructive proposals of member countries of the Contadora Group have not been put into effect so far, the only reason for it is that they have been continually torpedoed by the U.S. and its Central American satellites.

It is noteworthy that President Reagan came up with this speech two days before the beginning of "Irangate" hearings in Congress. The President obviously tries to exonerate himself, but with little success. By his speech he actually confirmed the information that appeared in the American press to the effect that he had known from the very beginning about the illegal arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary gangs, and about so-called 'private donations' for the upkeep of the mercenary Contras gangs at the time when U.S. Congress had banned the rendering of any assistance to them.

The head of the White House comes out for the export of counterrevolution, for the kindling of counterrevolutionary conflagrations in the countries where people had taken power into their own hands. Reagan's speech in which he pledged continuing U.S. support for Afghan counterrevolutionaries, UNITA bandits in Angola and Pol Pot men in Kampuchea confirmed that the Washington administration regarded regional conflicts as a permanent reserve for manipulating the level of confrontation, power politics and anti-Soviet propaganda. However, this course is very much at variance with the interests of peace and security both in separate regions and in the world in general.

REAGAN CONFIRMS MEETING CONTRAS FUND RAISER

LD011954 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Washington May 1 TASS -- President Reagan keeps categorically denying that he had knowledge about the illegal campaign to raise funds for military aid to the contras, which was conducted by the ultra-right figure Carl Channell.

This supporter of Reagan became the first of the persons involved in the "Iran-Gate" scandal against whom criminal charges were officially filed.

Replying to questions put by press correspondents Thursday, the President said that he wasn't aware of that. He confirmed, however, that he met Channell several times in the White House. Channell was engaged in raising funds for the contras among private persons. The more generous among those money-bags were invited to the White House for personal meetings with the president.

DATA ON U.S. NUCLEAR POWER STATION INCIDENTS CITED

PM301712 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Incidents at U.S. Nuclear Power Stations"]

[Text] Washington, 27 Apr -- As a report published here Saturday by the social organization Public Citizen points out, the government's Nuclear Regulatory Commission received over 3,000 notifications of various incidents at U.S. nuclear power stations last year.

The report lists 14 stations which registered more than 50 incidents each during the year. The most serious accident occurred last December at the Gravel Neck nuclear power station in Virginia, where several thousand liters of boiling water escaped from a broken steel pipe on the station's premises. Eight power station workers were seriously scalded and four died. Some 23,000 incidents of various kinds have been recorded at nuclear power stations in the United States since the major accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station reactor in 1979.

KOMSOMOL OFFICIAL GREETS PRC YOUTHS ON MAY 4TH

OW041109 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0100 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] May 4th is the Chinese Youth Day. (Zelinnev), a leading member of the Komsomol Central Committee, joined us in our broadcast today:

[(Zelinnev) in Russian fading into Mandarin] Dear Chinese young people, allow me, on behalf of Soviet youths, to express their greetings to you on your day. We wish you good health and success in your study, work, and social activities; and we wish your country prosperity.

Soviet youths understand the history of Chinese youth movements. They know that Chinese youths were pioneers in the May 4th Movement. It was precisely under the influence of this movement that an organized revolutionary movement of Chinese youths emerged.

[Announcer] Everyone knows that the May 4th Movement was caused by the 1919 Paris Convention which decided to legitimize Japan's occupation of Shandong. The report triggered the wrath of the Chinese people. Young students were the first to parade on the streets to protest the decision. Shortly afterward, the anti-imperialist movement initiated by students in Beijing engulfed the whole country. Chinese people and youths learned from the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution of the Russian people in 1917 and their achievements in struggling against foreign aggressors and domestic counterrevolutionaries that China's national liberation movement would triumph. For example, the National College Students conference held in Beijing in January 1920 adopted a petition to Soviet Russia, which read: your unprecedented revolutionary exploits have ushered in a new century. We respect you. We thank you profoundly. We will do all we can to awaken the Chinese people's strong goodwill toward the new Russia.

That was how the friendship between the Soviet and Chinese youths came into being. Today let us recall some brilliant chapters in the history of the friendly relations between the youths of our two countries after the founding of the PRC in 1949. In those days the Komsomol's most outstanding representatives -- young workers, scholars, and teachers -- were sent to China to impart their knowledge and experiences to Chinese youths. This Soviet youth organization also shipped to Chinese college and secondary school equipment. Soviet youths often played host to leaders and members of the Chinese Youth League [CYL]. For example, the first group of students admitted by the Higher Komsomol School -- a school affiliated with the Komsomol -- were a large group of art workers of the CYL. There were too many cases of such cooperation to list here. Today, Soviet youths are making every effort to reinstate the ties with Chinee youths.

Now let us hear the talk by (Zelinnev), a leading member of the Komsomol, in this regard.

(Zelinnev) said that the Komsomol Central Committee stressed in the final report of the 20th Komsomol Congress that Soviet youths welcome the steps taken to improve Soviet-Chinese relations. We urge the restoration of the friendly ties between Soviet and Chinese youths.

(Zelinnev) continued: Soviet youths are ready to resume the dialogue with their Chinese counterparts because this is conducive to the consolidation of the peaceful and socialist forces. As far as the people of our two countries are concerned, peace and socialism are their common and inalienable wealth.

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY GREETS PRC LISTENERS ON MAY DAY

OW041124 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0100 GMT 1 May 87

[From the "Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society" program]

[Text] Dear Chinese friends: The first day of May is an international day of solidarity for working people. Please listen to a talk by Ryyelev, member and deputy executive secretary of the Central Council of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society.

Comrade Ryyelev said: Please allow me to extend my heartfelt May Day greetings to dear Chinese listeners on behalf of the Central Council of the Soviet-Chinese Friendhip Society and its activists.

Comrade Ryyelev continued: The Soviet people joyfully greet this festival. Our country is undergoing reforms in all aspects of our social life. People throughout the country support the profound changes that are taking place in the economic, scientific, social, management, and other areas. They know that reform conforms to their fundamental interests.

Comrade Ryyelev continued: Ensuring a long-lasting peace has always been the highest objective of the CPSU and the Soviet Union. This is determined by the nature of the socialist society. Today the fate of peace and social progress is linked most closely with the worldwide development of the socialist system, the comprehensive cooperation between the USSR and fraternal socialist nations, and the unity and solidarity among us. Enhancing cooperation among socialist nations is a priority of our party and country in their international activities.

Comrade Ryyelev continued: I am happy to point out that the economic, trade, cultural, and other relations between the Soviet Union and China have been developing smoothly. Contacts between the two nations' friendship societies are expanding. This is very good. The more the two nations expand their friendly relations, the better it will be for peace and the socialist cause.

Comrade Ryyelev said: Recently, social circles in the Soviet Union have once again expressed their support for the policy of developing good-neighborly relations with China. The Soviet people are happy to see the achievements made by the Chinese people in socialist construction because we have a similar task; namely, accelerating social and economic development in society. We can support and cooperate with each other in fulfilling our respective plans. This will benefit both our nations.

Comrade Ryyelev said in conclusion: Dear Chinese friends, please allow me once again to wish you greater achievements in socialist construction, good health, happiness, and success. We hope that the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Chinese people will become more consolidated and develop day by day. Dear listeners, we wish you a happy holiday.

U.S. SHIP IN JAPAN SAID CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

LD050847 Moscow TASS in English 0808 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Tokyo May 5 TASS -- The U.S. attack aircraft carrier "Midway" based in Japan has aboard nuclear weapons which officially are banned from being introduced to Japan. This is borne out by new facts revealed by the research group of the Japanese Communist Party in the Pentagon library.

It succeeded in finding a collection of photos of the aircraft carrier's crew there with a full list of its services mentioning among them 21 people from a special unit engaged in assembling, equipping and keeping secret ammunition.

Rear Admiral (retired) Eugene Carroll, former commander of the "Midway" and deputy director of the Washington Centre for Defence Information, said in an interview with the newspaper AKAHATA that this unit services nuclear weapons preparing them for installation in aircract and immediate use in case a corresponding order is issued.

The fact that the "Midway" has nuclear weapons aboard is tantamount to their permanent deployment in Japan since this attack aircraft carrier has been officially registered at Port Yokosuka since 1973 and has entered it to carry out repairs and replenish stocks for over one hundred times since then.

Last month, the Communist Party of Japan published the text of a classified directive by the U.S. State Department of [words indistinct] the existence of secret agreements on the illegal introduction of nuclear weapons in Japan. Faced with irrefutable facts, the United States was forced to admit the authenticity of this document.

Washington and Tokyo, however, keep asserting as before that the meaning of the directive was allegedly wrongly interpreted. By the way, the very fact that U.S. nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft designed to use nuclear weapons use regularly and unhindered Japanese ports remains to be the best confirmation of the existence of secret agreements, the newspaper ASAHI writes.

COMMENTARIES ON JAPAN'S SDI INVOLVEMENT

'Not in Japan's Interest'

OW020800 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 1 May 87

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Excerpts] Japan's participation in the SDI program is again being widely discussed in Japanese newspapers. In this regard, commentator Dmitriyev writes as follows:

We have frequently heard the argument that the SDI program, otherwise called the Star Wars program, is Washington's trump card in negotiations with the Soviet Union. Now it seems the program has become one of Prime Minister Nakasone's cards in his negotiations with the U.S. leadership.

ASAHI SHIMBUN writes that during Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to Washington an agreement will be reached on the early signing of an accord concerning terms of Japan's participation in the SDI program and that the signing is expected before the Venice summit in mid-May.

The Japanese Government is expected to announce its (?view) on the SDI participation issue. The announcement will undoubtedly seek to appease the increasing anti-Japanese feelings in the U.S. Congress over the increasing trade friction.

A personal approach to the U.S. leadership concerning recent trade sanctions imposed on Japan is one of the most important tasks for Prime Minister Nakasone in his Washington visit. NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN obtained the text of a speech the prime minister will deliver at the end of his U.S. visit. Judging from an article about it, (?the prime minister) will likely state that participation in the Star Wars program is completely in Japan's interest as a peaceful nation because the program is ultimately aimed at scrapping nuclear arms. Whether he will actually say that will soon be known. For now, we will confine our comment to a previously made remark.

The remark in question is by U.S. physicist Edward Teller, who is called father of hydrogen bomb and [word indistinct] of SDI. He said the fairy tale that SDI can be used for nuclear disarmament (?on earth) has been concocted for domestic use to hurt antiwar movements in the United States. If the antinuclear nature of SDI is a fairy tale, where does the true lie? SDI has many aspects, the most dangerous one that it destroys strategic stability. If SDI materializes, the destruction of this stability would be unavoidable. [passage omitted]

Judging from the present circumstances, the Japanese Government is prepared to take part in the militarization of space. Does it really believe doing so is in the interest of Japan's security? It is not in Japan's interest. On the contrary, Japan will be weakening its security by taking part in a new step of the arms race. Or does the Japanese Government believe SDI participation is in the interest of the Japanese economy? Because the U.S. Pentagon controls all patents relating to the SDI program under terms of agreements, it is impossible to expect such a thing.

Why then is Japan going participate in the militarization of space? An answer is suggested by the circumstances surrounding Prime Minister Nakasone's latest visit to Washington -- that is, [words indistinct] the Japan-U.S. trade friction. Needless to say, the trade friction is indeed a serious problem for Japan. Does it mean, however, that world stability and collective security, for which Japan is responsible like all other countries, are not so important for Japan?

Tokyo Stand 'Illogical'

LD301749 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS -- Political News Analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

The Japanese press writes with reference to sources in the government delegation now on an official visit in Washington that during his talks with the American President Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone intends to express consent with the formula of reducing medium-range missiles that was reached in Reykjavik last October.

At the same time, the newspaper YOMIURI writes, Nakasone intends to suggest the idea of establishing a concrete timeframe for the total elimination of this class of armaments. While urging the United States to attain a "global zero option" on medium-range missiles as the ultimate goal, the paper writes, the premier wants at the same time the signing of the agreement on Japan's participation in SDI to precede the opening of the June conference of the leaders of the seven leading capitalist countries in Venice.

A correspondent of the newspaper NIHON KEIZAI managed to get the text of Nakasone's forthcoming speech at the National Press Club and writes that the prime minister will declare for Japan's accession to SDI on the claim that the "Star Wars" programme "fully accords with the peaceful nature of the Japanese state because in the final analysis it is directed at eliminating nuclear arms". Thereby, the paper concludes, Nakasone "intends to give the Reagan administration support on the flank at the nuclear disarmament talks with the USSR".

Of course one can understand the desire of the Japanese head of government to resort once again to a display of "Western solidarity" and give Washington support in the fulfillment of the "Star Wars" programme and thus find a way out of the difficult situation in which his country has found itself as a result of the drastic aggravation of trade and economic contradictions with the United States. But while understanding this one cannot help noting that Tokyo's stand is both illogical and remote from the genuine aims of disarmament.

For by championing the elimination of nuclear arms on earth and at the same time joining SDI the Japanese Government, whether it wants it or not, gives a helping hand to spreading the arms race to the boundless expanses of outer space. The implementation of SDI will create an insurmountable barrier in the way of eliminating nuclear arms.

While busying itself with SDI the United States simultaneously is stepping up the production and perfection of missiles, aircraft and new nuclear warheads that are intended not for defence but for penetrating defences. More than that, SDI implies the deployment in outer space of new more advanced weapons, including nuclear ones, which will force the other side to look for an adequate response, not necessarily one that is symmetrical to the American effort.

The implemenation of the "Star Wars" programme will make impossible agreements in the field of reducing and liquidating strategic offensive arms. It will destabilise the entire system of security, deal an irreparable blow to international trust that it is so difficult to build. Does all this accord with the peaceful nature of the Japanese state, with the aims proclaimed by its constitution, with the universally known three non-nuclear principles? Is not the price of "cohesion" that the Japanese premier intends to pay for a settlement of differences with its "senior partner" far too high?

POLICE SEARCH JAPANESE FIRM TRADING WITH USSR

LD301657 Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo April 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Anichkin reports:

The Japanese police today conducted a search in the central office of one of Japan's biggest mechanical engineering firms, Toshiba Kikai. The firm was accused of violating restrictions imposed by COCOM, the consultative group coordination committee which exercises control over the export to socialist countries. The firm's supply of several numerically controlled machine tools to the Soviet Union in 1985 is meant. [sentence as received]

The authorities initially saw no violations in this trade operation which is shown by a corresponding permission from the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

But they in Washington viewed the matter differently. U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger declared that the export of Japanese machine tools to the USSR allegedly erodes America's security, since those machine tools are used to fashion propellers for submarines. The chief of the Pentagon raised that matter at a meeting with chairman of the executive council of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party Shintaro Abe and demanded that Toshiba be punished.

The U.S. Administration is clearly annoyed at the striving of the Japanese business circles to develop mutually-advantageous ties with socialist countries. A month ago, COCOM, acting at the bid of the USA, accused the Toshiba electrical engineering concern which owns the Toshiba Kikai firm of violating sanctions against the PRC. A report in the NIHON KEIZAI says that Washington now insists on Japan's giving up the expansion of the import of coal from the USSR and increasing the purchases of coal from the USA.

The raid on the Toshiba Kikai central office indicates that such calls reach their aim. A spokesman for the international trade and industry ministry declared today that a special mechanism for control over the supply of products of Japanese companies to socialist countries will possibly have to be created in the future. Certain persons in Tokyo apparently wish to show "toughness" even to the detriment of Japan's national interests and contrary to the advantage which trade with the USSR brings to local corporations.

It is characteristic that the police actions against Toshiba coincided in time with the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to the United States. That visit is held against the background of an unprecedented aggravation of Japanese-American commercial and economic relations. Tokyo's concessions to the United States categorical demands are an attempt to lessen contradictions with Washington.

JAPANESE DEMAND OVER KURILE ISLANDS 'BASELESS'

OW030934 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 2 May 87

[Arbatskiy commentary]

[Text] Yamashita, of the Japanese Government's Management and Coordination Agency, on 1 May made a so-called inspection of the southern Kurile islands, which belong to the Soviet Union. Following is an Arbatskiy commentary on this issue:

Needless to say, Yamashita is not the first Japanese Government official to visit Hokkaido to step up a propaganda campaign for Japan's territorial demand against the Soviet Union. Noteworthy, however, is the fact he made the visit at a time when there were signs of some positive development in Soviet-Japanese relations. How to spur on such development in the future has become a topic between the two countries. This Japanese action has an element of complicating Soviet-Japanese relations. We cannot but feel it contradicts the intent for improved relations repeatedly stated by the Japanese Government.

No propaganda ploys can cover up the fact that the territorial demand against the Soviet Union is of a baseless, revanchist nature. It is equally clear they will not produce the results some Japanese are hoping to achieve.

DRA'S KARMAL DEPARTS FOR USSR FOR 'TREATMENT, REST'

LD041641 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1602 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kabul, 4 May (TASS) -- Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee member, in accordance with the recommendation of doctors and upon an invitation, left for the Soviet Union today for treatment [lecheniye] and rest, the BAKHTAR agency has reported. Before his departure, Babrak Karmal met with Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, with members and candidate members of the Politburo, and with secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee.

At the airport, Babrak Karmal was seen off by Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the Politburo; secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo, and PDPA Central Committee secretary; other officials; and Pavel Mozhayev, USSR ambassador in the DRA.

NAJIBULLAH REMARKS AT 'ENTREPRENEURS' MEETING

PM241500 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "First All-Afghan Conference"]

[Text] Kabul, 19 Apr -- The first all-Afghan conference of private entrepreneurs opened in the Afghan capital today.

Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, delivered a speech at the opening of the conference. Afghanistan's history, he said, has known, no power or party whose program and practical activity have defended the people's interests as persistently and consistently as the PDPA and the revolutionary government.

Despite the war, the party and government are implementing broad measures for the further democratization of society. The broad restructuring of society's political composition is underway to ensure that the voice of every citizen in the country has weight in resolving the most important state questions. We have proposed and are implementing a course toward national conciliation, considering it the only sensible means of ending the fratricidal war and bloodshed.

We are now resolving the long-term, difficult task of overcoming economic backwardness, the PDPA Central Committee general secretary said. The solution of this imposing task requires the participation of all sectors without exception, including the private sector.

The PDPA Central Committee extraordinary plenum stressed with new force the political importance of the economic aspect of national conciliation. The task was set of ensuring the economic prerequisites for the successful implementation of the course toward national conciliation and the economic reinforcement of the results achieved.

Speaking of the course of fulfillment of the reconciliation program, the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee stated that 1,300 extraordinary commissions on national reconciliation have been established and are engaged in active work, with 17,000 activists as their members. Despite obstacles, more than 40,000 refugees have already returned home. Since the proclamation of the course of national reconciliation, 21,000 members of armed groups have gone over to the side of the people's power. In all, more than 1,100 groups are in contact with the local organs of power. Great significance is attached to the broad amnesty -- 5,500 people have been set free. During this period 949 villages have gone over to the authorities' control.

Good results have been achieved in national economic development. Gross output last year increased by 3 percent and national income by 4 percent.

Our foreign policy activity has increased. At the Geneva talks with Pakistan, the DRA delegation has pursued a profound, offensive policy.

The main result is that the mood of the people has changed. No party slogan has ever received such strong support as the slogan of national reconciliation.

Speaking of the initial results, Najib continued, we state quite frankly that the course of national reconciliation cannot yet be regarded as smooth. There has yet to be a radical turn in the situation which has grown over 8 years. Therefore, we regard the party and government efforts so far as insufficient. Revolutionary Afghanistan and the PDPA are not alone in their struggle, Najib stressed. At every stage we have received and continue to receive all-around support from the great Soviet Union and all the socialist countries.

The conference participants then heard a report from S.A. Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

Foreign delegations are present at the conference, including a Soviet Government delegation, headed by K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Speaking at the conference, the head of the Soviet delegation stated that today the entire progressive world observes with satisfaction the positive changes taking place on Afghan soil. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan are linked by ancient, firm bonds of friendship and cooperation which have now acquired the broadest scale and are systematic in nature.

REPORTAGE ON DRA'S APRIL REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

Envoy to USSR Speech

LD242242 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1940 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr (TASS) -- Democratic Afghanistan's progress would be even more significant, but for the undeclared war unleashed against our country, Habib Mangal, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DRA to the USSR, stated. He was speaking at a ceremonial gathering in Moscow's House of Friendship with Peoples of Foreign Countries today, devoted to the ninth anniversary of the April Revolution. Activitists of the Society of Friendship and Cultural Links with Afghanistan, public representatives, and journalists gathered in the large hall of the old private residence on Kalinin Prospekt today.

Imperialist forces and the counterrevolution are striving to overthrow people's power, to turn the clock back. War is not only preventing us from carrying out the tasks that confront us, but is standing in the way of achieving the revolution's aims. Only imperialism and the counterrevolution are benefitting from the war, while all Afghan people have is hardship and suffering.

The policy of national reconciliation is inseparably linked with the solution of problems that have developed in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union sincerely desires to solve these problems as quickly as possible and is making every effort to do so. The Afghan people are fully determined to carry out the policy of national reconciliation to put an end to the fratricidal war.

The initial results of the policy of reconciliation show that the PDPA and revolutionary power are following the correct and principled path. We have taken humanitarian steps toward stopping the bloodshed and normalizing the situation around Afghanistan.

The ambassador expressed appreciation of the support the Soviet Union is giving the Afghan revolution. The PDPA and revolutionary power, he said, intend to go on strengthening good-neighborly relations and all-round cooperation with the USSR. The solemn meeting at the House of Friendship ended with a concert by leading artists.

Messages Exchanged With USSR

LD262254 Moscow TASS in English 1721 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS -- The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers sent a telegram of greetings to Afghan leaders on the occasion of the national holiday of Democratic Afghanistan -- the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution.

The telegram said that the ideas of the national democratic revolution had been creatively applied to the newly-proclaimed program for national reconciliation. It also pointed to wholehearted support in the USSR for this policy and to readiness to continue helping its practical implementation.

In a reply telegram to Mikhail Gorbachev, Andrey Gromyko and Nikolay Ryzhkov, the Afghan leaders expressed gratitude for the congratulations.

"We are sincerely interested in an early attainment of peace and calm on our ancient land and for the sake of this noble end we intend to go far enough, up to, and including, the formation of a coalition government which could include representatives of influential political opposition forces concerned about Aghanistan's destiny," the telegram said.

It added that the policy of normalizing the situation in Afghanistan was linked inseparably with efforts to achieve a political settlement of the situation regarding that country as soon as possible.

The telegram said also that the Afghan Government and people backed the Soviet Union's foreign-policy initiatives directed at ensuring peace, stability and security.

Date Celebrated in Kabul

LD261916 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 26 TASS -- The 9th anniversary of the April Revolution was marked in Kabul today with a gala meeting attended by Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), other party leaders and statesmen of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, representatives of the Afghan public, and foreign guests.

A report on the results of the 9th year of the revolution was delivered by Abdul Wakil, a member of the Political Bureau of the PDPA Central Committee and foreign minister of Afghanistan.

The 9th revolutionary year, he said, had become a special year, a year in which a policy of national reconciliation had been proclaimed.

"National reconciliation," Wakil explained, "is an objective need for the entire country, for its people and for every Afghan."

"We can say with all responsibility today that this policy has the support of members of all social sections and groups of the population, including many former enemies of the people's system of government, and of progressive and democratic forces all over the planet," he said.

Speaking of the issue of a settlement of the situation concerning Afghanistan, the Afghan foreign minister pointed to the negative stand taken on the issue by Pakistan and the United States slowing down the process of talks in Geneva in every way. He said it was only due to support by reactionary and imperialist forces that counter-revolutionaries were still able to continue a war against their own people. "Every level-headed Afghan knows how much friendship with the Soviet Union, which dates back to the beginning of the century, means to our people," Wakil said.

He said 60 projects of Afghan-Soviet cooperation had been completed in the past year. The 9th year of the revolution, he continued, had been also a year in which the authority and prestige of the PDPA had grown even further. Wakil cited facts to corroborate that point: in the three and a half months since the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, the party has been jointed by 10,000 people.

"The PDPA now is a generally recognized vanguard of the country's working people, numbering more than 180,000 members," he said. He also dwelt upon the results of work to fulfill economic and social development plans in the past year and spoke of achievements in industry, agriculture, medical services and public education.

Defense Minister Speech

LD271317 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 27 TASS -- TASS correspondents Gherman Baykov, Andrey Greshnov and Oleg Kuzmin report:

Today the Afghan people celebrate the national holiday: The ninth anniversary of the April Revolution. A military parade and a festive civilian demonstration took place in the central square of Kabul. On the tribune were the leaders of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and of the Government of the DRA, top military leaders, and foreign guests.

The parade was reviewed by Mohammad Rafi, member of the Political Bureau of the PDPA Central Committee, minister of defence of the DRA. "The Afghan people," the defence minister pointed out in his speech, "mark the ninth anniversary of the April Revolution at a time when the course towards national reconciliation is being consistently implemented in the country." "More than 20,000 members of opposition groups took the side of the people's government since the course was proclaimed." "Talks on ending armed confrontation are being conducted with other groups with an aggregate strength of about 100,000. More than 44,000 refugees have returned home, responding to the call for the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan". "Fifty-five hundred prisoners have been released in accordance with the decree on amnesty."

Mohammad Rafi pointed out that all progressive forces of the world and, first of all, the USSR, come out in support of the cause of peace on Afghan soil. "At the same time U.S.-headed international imperialism as well as Pakistani militarism and the reactionary circles of Iran try to frustrate the process of revolutionary transformations and national reconciliation in the DRA". "In reply to the Afghan Army's ceasefire, the enemies of revolutionary Afghanistan continue to commit acts of sabotage and terror".

"The crime committed by the Pakistani military who destroyed a transport plane with passengers on board is still fresh in people's memory". "The servicemen of the DRA's Armed Forces," the minister emphasized, "assure the PDPA and the Afghan Government, the Revolutionary Council and the entire people of Afghanistan that they are prepared to defend the revolution, the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic."

The best units of the Armed Forces of the DRA and of the Tsarandoi (People's Militia), cadets of military schools, and the fighting-men of the border forces of tribes marched past the tribune. Fighter planes and helicopters of the Afghan Air Force flew over columns of combat hardware: Armoured personnel carriers, tanks, artillery mounts and missile launchers.

Then a festive demonstration of the people of the Afghan capital was held. The square was filled by workers, peasants, employees and students who carried placards and streamers with inscriptions proclaiming "long live the ninth anniversary of the April Revolution" and "national reconciliation is irreversible."

Commentary Views Anniversary

OW281414 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2230 GMT 27 Apr 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast; Yuriy Rostov commentary]

[Text] The people of Afghanistan are marking the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution today. Here is our commentary:

[Rostov] Hello, comrades: Nine years is not a long existence for a state, but during this period Afghanistan has traversed an enormous path, a path from a monarchy to the founding of a people's state. The Republic achievements are well known. They include a transfer of the levers of administration into the hands of the working people, elimination of hunger, and the establishment of a new system of education and medical services. The reforms have changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. However their influence could be considerably greater.

The spring of 1978 was not only a time of birth of the Republic. It was also the date of the beginning of undeclared aggression. Destablization of the government, sabotage, and terrorism -- aims of hundreds of agents of Western special services who crossed the borders were not new, and this old scenario had more than once in the past ended in a fiasco. However, the Western instuctors, money, and weapons created a most severe and protracted crisis in Afghanistan.

Why? There are many reasons: Illiteracy, backwardness, the influence of the more reactionary trends of Islam, and finally the open borders. There is also another reason -- the geographic features of the country. A considerable part of the Afghan population lives in small villages separated by mountain ranges. Often they are linked by foot paths only. The task of defending the entire territory of the Republic facing the Afghan Army and Soviet troops in such conditions is tens, if not hundreds, of times more difficult than the tasks faced by the gangs of Dushmans -- the task of organizing terror in places of their choice. It is precisely the brutality of this terror that has led to the passivity of a considerable part of the rural population.

But I do not think the crisis around Afghanistan will last long. We probably have grounds for optimism. It lies in the fact that the process of change is spreading in breadth in Afghanistan and this is why increasing number of workers and peasants, who have received land, are joining the self-defense detachments. The people themselves are becoming the defenders of the revolution and of its achievements.

REPORT VIEWS DEVELOPMENTS, RECONCILIATION IN DRA

LD262106 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report from Afghanistan by M. Leshchinskiy, identified by screen caption]

[Text] The scene we show for this pre-holiday reportage is the northern Afghan Province of Konduz. People here are mainly engaged in agriculture, and the spring, therefore, is a time of constant worry and hopes over the future harvest. Currently, however, the whole country is worried too. The worries about the war unleashed by imperialism and reaction immediately after the revolutionary events have not yet become a thing of the past. There is, however, also hope and faith in the success of the national reconciliation policy Kabul has been persistently pursuing now for more than 3 months. The center of that struggle now lies in these village areas where the greater part of the country's population lives, and where, until quite recently, the dushmans held the controlling influence.

Now the situation is changing. This time of vogurius action has clearly shown who is who: The armed groups joining the side of the people's power are taking on the protection of their land. The peasants now receive grain from the state, and the first harvest is ripening on the field cleared of mines. We had a special reason for coming to Konduz, the center of the province with the same name. Almost 6 months ago we were reporting from these streets, from this town, on the departure of two of the six Soviet regiments that were then returning to the homeland after fulfilling their internationalist duty. Those stirring moments, hours, when thousands of people stood here to see off the Soviet servicemen with words of gratitude are still fresh in the memory.

It was with those recollections that our conversation began with lawyer Mehdizada, chairman of the provincial extraordinary commission for national reconciliation. The example of our province, he said, has proved yet again the mendaciousness of the fabrications that peace depends on the presence of Soviet troops. Two regiments have left Konduz, but in response more and more terrorist groups are being sent in from Pakistan with the most up-to-date weapons. The ringleaders abroad are waging a war against the revolution, against the people. But time is working for us, and it cannot be turned back by either dollars or weapons.

COMMENTARY SCORES HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI REMARKS

NC291329 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Soviet public cannot remain indifferent to the attack made on our country in the Iranian Consultative Assembly [Majlis] by its speaker, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani tried to count the Soviet Union among Iran's full-fledged enemies, equating it with U.S. imperialism. He said: No government fights Iran without a gesture from of reliance on the Soviet Union or the United States.

It seems the main enemy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is no longer the leadership of Iraq, against whom so much has been said in the Majlis, which also speaks highly of fratricide. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani now portrays the Soviet Union as Iran's major enemy, along with the United States and France.

The conclusion drawn from his remarks is that the Iran-Iraq war is no longer the issue, that the issue is now one of alleged joint aggression against Iran by the United States, the Soviet Union, and France.

The question is: For whom and for what objectives are such hallucinatory remarks made in Iran? Are these efforts made for the sake of millions of Iranians whose hopes and ideals have been forgotten and whose struggles for freedom and justice have actually been betrayed? Are the Iranian leaders not actually trying to convince the Iranian people that Tehran is not responsible for the meaningless bloodshed into which the country has been plunged, thanks to the ambitions of the grand ayatollahs? The Iranian leaders are probably trying to justify to the Iranian nation the endless defeats of their military adventurism, which has so far cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iranians, including children and adolescents, on the battlefields.

There is no doubt that the United States and its NATO allies play a great role in the protraction of the Iran-Iraq war. The Irangate revelations were only one proof of this reality. But why falsely place the Soviet Union among those who hope -- with the help of this war and Iran's ultimate weakening -- to return the country to the yoke of imperialism? When Irangate was revealed, it was blatantly announced in Washington that the Reagan administration had sent arms to Iran secretly and hoped to revive U.S. influence there through a network of agents in the country's political and economic fields. Everything is clear as far as this is concerned. But is it not clear that from the first days of the Iranian revolution the Soviet Union sincerely supported this movement? Is it not clear that the warnings of the Soviet Union created great difficulties for Washington, when it wanted to stiflee this revolution with direct, armed intervention? Is it not clear that the Soviet Union has always been a very serious and decisive opponent of the meaningless Iran-Iraq war? Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani cannot feign ignorance of all this, because he, at least, is among people who have access to world news and information.

Therefore, the question is: What has so greatly enraged him as far as Soviet policy is concerned? Is it the fact that the Soviet people do not hide their concern about the injustice of the reactionaries ruling Iran, the suppression of Iran's patriots, and the unjust, warmongering anticommunism under the false slogan of saving Islam? Spitting at the sun will not stop it from shining!

However, one more reality is clear: The Iranian people's trust and faith in those who are trying to denigrate their friend and northern neighbor has been lost.

BRIEFS

SOVIET-INDIAN COOPERATION -- New Delhi May 4 TASS -- The Soviet Union wil render assistance to India in the designing and construction of 15 coal industry enterprises, Vasant Sathen India's minister of energy, stated in Parliament today. They will produce 76 million tons of coal a year. According to the Indian minister, cooperation with the Soviet Union in the realization of those plans included the designing of the enterprises, their construction and putting into operation. He emphasized that the new enterprises would be created on the basis of latest achievements of science and technology. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0945 GMT 4 May 87 LD]

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT USSR IN MAY

LD031045 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 3 TASS -- Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sitthi Sawetsila will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government in the second decade of days in May.

TALKS HELD WITH SRV ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

OW301305 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] A meeting was held on 28 April between Gusev, vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Dong Si Nguyen, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers. The two sides discussed issues of economic, trade, scientific, and technological cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

Present at the meeting was SRV Ambassador to the Soviet Union Nguyen Manh Cam.

Science, Technology Discussed

OW301415 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] On 28 April, (Pastukhov), deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Soviet Union [name and titles as heard], received Dang Huu, chairman of the SRV State Science and Technology Commission. Both sides discussed issues related to the continuation of development and expansion of scientific and technological cooperation between the Soviet Union and the SRV.

PHILIPPINE ARMY ON ALERT FOR MARCOS 'TERROR CAMPAIGN'

LD011048 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] London May 1 TASS -- The army garrison in the Philippine capital today was alerted and security around the Presidential Palace and government offices stepped up following information that former President Ferdinand Marcos was orchestrating "a terror campaign" to disrupt May 11 parliamentary elections, REUTER news agency reported today.

It quoted "military intelligence sources" as telling it that Marcos, who is currently in Hawaii, had put up five million dollars for the purpose.

Besides, he personally instructed three former ranking Philippine Army officers, who fled the country together with the deposed president, on how the "terror campaign" should be conducted.

Among other things, Marcos ordered the bombing of vital government institutions, the seizure of major commercial buildings and the abduction of politicians.

Marcos loyalists and various right-wing groups staged several demonstrations in Manila today, provoking small-scale clashes with police. Their principal demand was for power to be handed back to Marcos who ran the country for 20 years.

CHNOUPEK MEETS WITH SHEVARDNADZE, NAJIBULLAH

AU301359 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 27 Apr 87 pp 1, 4

[CTK report: "Disarmament at the Center of Attention; Eduard Shevardnadze Meets Bohuslav Chnoupek"]

[Text] Moscow (CTK) -- Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, departed on Saturday, 25 April, for an official friendly visit to the DRA at the invitation of Abdol Wakil, DRA minister of foreign affairs. On his way to Kabul, Chnoupek made a stopover in Moscow, where he met Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, on Saturday, 25 April.

The two ministers expressed deep satisfaction with the deepening Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation in all spheres. The recent official friendly visit to the CSSR by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, and his negotiations with Gustav Husak, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary and CSSR president, and with other leading Czechoslovak representatives affirmed the endeavor of Soviet and Czechoslovak Communists and of the peoples of both countries to raise this cooperation to a new and higher level. Resolve was stressed to deepen the unity and cohesion of the socialist community's countries and the cooperation between the Warsaw Pact member states in the fight for peace and social progress.

In discussing international problems, interest was focused on issues of halting armament and establishing a global system of peace and international security. The two sides affirmed the will to strive for the realization of the concrete collective measures worked out at the Moscow session of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Pact member states, and aimed at developing the Budapest initiative on reducing the strengths of armed forces and armaments in Europe and at unfolding the all-European process.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Bohuslav Chnoupek stressed that one must inevitably conclude -- in the immediate future -- an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. intermediate-range missiles in Europe, reach an agreement on operational-tactical missiles, rid Europe of nuclear arms, and begin the process of demilitarizing this continent. The particular significance of the initiatives of the CSSR and GDR for creating a nuclear-arms-free corridor as well as a zone free from chemical weapons in Central Europe was emphasized.

Both ministers expressed the hope that all European states, and above all the NATO states, will contribute to this effort. The talk was held in a cordial and comradely atmosphere, and confirmed the full unity of views on all issues discussed.

On 26 April, the Czechoslovak guest was welcomed at Kabul airport by Abdol Wakil, Afghan minister of foreign affairs. The welcome was also attended by Bohuslav Handl, CSSR ambassador to the DRA, and by representatives of the Czechoslovak citizens working in Afghanistan. Minister Chnoupek met PDPA Secretary General Najib in Kabul yesterday. In a cordial, comradely talk the Czechoslovak representative expressed full support for the policy of the Afghan leadership, which is aimed at peacefully resolving the situation in the DRA. He expressed Czechoslovakia's readiness to further expand cooperation with Afghanistan in the political and economic spheres. Najib stated that the process of national reconciliation, which began in the DRA on 15 February, is already registering the first successes both at home and abroad. [paragraph continues]

Tens of thousands of former counterrevolutionaries have joined the revolution's side and many other groups are negotiating. Currently, about 30,000 of the most reactionary extremists are fighting against the Afghan people. In the talk, Najib expressed thanks for the persistent assistance granted by the CSSR to the Afghan April Revolution.

TRADE ATTACHE ON BULGARIAN PRODUCTION SHORTCOMINGS

AU291345 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 28 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Valentin Dyakov, USSR trade attache in Bulgaria, by Radost Pateva; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Pateva] Comrade Dyakov, can you describe the main characteristic of present Bulgarian-Soviet economic relations and can you tell us how Bulgarian exports to the USSR have increased in 1986?

[Dyakov] Mutual relations between our two countries are developing and improving on the basis of a consistent implementation of comprehensive cooperation under the conditions of dynamic and stable development in both the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and on the basis of a planned increase in the economic potential of our two countries. This line is implemented by the Central Committees of the CPSU and the BCP.

The visit Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, paid to the People's Republic of Bulgaria and his talks with Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, represented a powerful impetus for the further expansion and intensification of our economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

[Pateva] How do you evaluate the quality of Bulgarian goods delivered to the Soviet Union?

[Dyakov] In 1986, Bulgarian enterprises pursued their work in implementing measures to improve the quality and technical standards of production deliveries to the USSR. We can point out several enterprises as positive examples in this respect. [passage omitted]

Along with positive examples regarding work to improve quality and technical standards in certain enterprises, this work is not always accomplished on schedule and is not always completed. For example, the K. Lukanov plant in Pleven has no long-term plan on work connected with quality improvement. Work in this respect is sporadic and is limited to the analysis of certain shortcomings that does not produce tangible results.

Certain items in the protocol on quality signed between Balkankar and the Mashinoimport All-Union Association are not implemented because no permanent work is conducted with the sub-contractors [poddostavchitsi] who are the chief executors of the measures. In the Plovdiv Rekord plant, according to the plant program on perfecting the metrological basis and introducing control benches, it was planned to put two control benches to control brake cylinders and control panels into operation in 1986. Despite the fact that technical documentation was elaborated and prepared in a timely way, the measures for applying non-destructive weld testing to the goods hoisting mechanism were not implemented.

In 1986, the Slivnitsa household refrigerator plant planned a program for improving the quality of refrigerators, but the program has not yet been implemented. In the process of Soviet engineers' acceptance of finished products in Bulgarian enterprises various shortcomings were established, such as the fact that the goods do not conform to the requirements of the normative-technical documents. [paragraph continues]

Deviations from established standards and from technical requirements were ascertained as well.

Nevertheless, generally speaking, thanks to the systematic work accomplished in this respect, the quality of goods delivered to the USSR by the People's Republic of Bulgaria conformed to the conditions of the contracts signed. There were isolated cases of some Bulgarian deliveries which deviated from these conditions. A high pecentage of sub-standard production in leather goods delivered from the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and of footwear in particular, should be mentioned in this respect. The percentage of complaints in the cases of tomato juice and furniture increased. Soviet and Bulgarian experts agreed to adopt additional measures to guarantee the strict observance of contractual obligations regarding the quality of mutual deliveries.

MACHINE BUILDING COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA NOTED

AU040849 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 25 Apr 87 p 4

[Report on interview with Igor Andreyevich Ordinartsev, USSR first deputy minister of machine tool and tool building industry, by Dimitur Gornenski, RABOTNICHESKO DELO Moscow correspondent, in Moscow -- date not given]

[Text] How to describe the prevailing trends in the development and intensification of relations between the workers collectives of Soviet and Bulgarian machine building enterprises -- this is an important subject on which Dimitur Gornenski, our Moscow correspondent interviewed Igor Andreyevich Ordinartsev, first deputy minister of machine tool and tool building industry:

At the beginning of our interview Igor Ordinartsev pointed out: "In recent years Soviet and Bulgarian machine building workers have made a qualitatively new beginning in the development of their cooperation and regarding the forms of socialist economic integration. The establishment and productive work of the first joint scientific-production trusts, such as Krasniy Proletariy-Beroe and Ivanovo-MMR Sofia, reflect the requirement of the strategic line pursued by both the CPSU and the BCP for the acceleration of economic and social development, including a more efficient use of the advantage of the international, socialist division of labor. We are proceeding along the path of qualitatively new solutions; namely, work in joint production enterprises on the basis of integrated, jointly developed technologies, and on a more complicated but more efficient organization and structure -- such as joint property and expansion of activities in all sectors, based on the principles of joint firms.

"I must stress that the results we have had at the beginning of our cooperation have been encouraging. The goods produced by joint scientific-production trusts are distinguished by high quality standards, at the same time reflecting the latest developments in modern machine building -- such as robotics, data processing centers, and flexible automated systems. The question of supplying sufficient electronic and automatic equipment for the new designs is being successfully addressed.

"We are now confronted with a number of serious problems. Today it is necessary to build reserve capacities that will permit the more flexible handling of the development of modern production. There are favorable prospects for the efficient solution of problems in the field of instrument equipment within the framework of the established joint scientific-production trusts. We think considerable progress can be made in this respect.

"The successful solution and accomplishment of specific tasks relating to the perfection of integration processes between fraternal, socialist CEMA member states depends to a great extent upon the efficiency of joint work. [paragraph continues]

Machine building workers are facing particularly important and responsible joint work. Machine building workers are confronted with particularly important and responsible tasks, and the way they implement these tasks will reflect upon the all-round development of new equipment in all branches of the national economy. It is our goal to speed up the rate at which highly productive and efficient new machines are commissioned and put into operation by 4-5 times, and also to speed up the rate at which they operate as much as possible. In order to achieve this goal it is necessary to thoroughly innovate the basic production funds -- by at least 15 percent annually, whereas in the past this rate was 5-6 percent. The expansion of independence in the general activities of machine building collectives must play a great role in drastically improving the efficiency of machine building collectives -- in solving basic organizational, structural, and technical problems, as well as in dealing with other important tasks, such as the technological standards of production, incentives for the introduction of new goods, the struggle for high quality of all goods, the strict implementation of contractual obligations."

"We are convinced," Igor Ordinartsev stated in conclusion, "that the collectives of joint Soviet-Bulgarian enterprises will increasingly be consolidated and will confirm the advantages of this progressive form of multiplying joint efforts through practical experience. These enterprises are pioneers in expanding the powerful process of perfecting integration relations, a process that plays a tremendously important role in the acceleration of scientific-technical progress in all economic branches of the fraternal socialist countries."

ALBANIAN WORKERS PARTY CENCOM PLENUM REPORTED

PM041807 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Albanian Workers Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Tirana, 24 Apr -- The ATA agency reports that the third plenum of the Albanian Workers Party [AWP] Central Committee was held on 22-23 April 1987 in Tirana.

In connection with the report by A. Carcani, member of the AWP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers, speaking for the AWP Central Committee Politburo, the plenum, after a wide-ranging discussion, unanimously adopted decisions to further improve consumer supplies of milk, meat, eggs, vegetables, potatoes, and beans, as well as fats and fish.

AWP Central Committee First Secretary R. Alia spoke at the end of the plenum.

GORBACHEV RECEIVES FRENCH CP LEADER MARCHAIS

LD041642 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting today with Georges Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party.

MURAKHOVSKIY-LED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN FRG

LD031129 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Bonn, 3 May (TASS) -- A Soviet delegation, headed by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, arrived on a visit here today. At the Cologne-Bonn airport leaders of the FRG Ministry for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry, met the delegation. Also among those meeting it was Yu.A. Kvitsinskiy, USSR ambassador in the FRG.

Meets With Kohl, Genscher

LD041337 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1302 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Bonn, 4 May (TASS) -- The Soviet delegation that is on a visit in the FRG and that is headed by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agricultural Committee, today met FRG Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher here. Certain issues of Soviet-FRG relations were examined. Particular attention was paid to the opportunities for an extension and deepening of cooperation in the area of agro-industrial production. On the FRG side it was emphasized that the FRG Government backs the development of bilateral relations, something that is of great significance not only to both of the states, but also to the East and the West as a whole.

The USSR delegation welcomed the FRG side's statement on its readiness for an extension of cooperation with the Soviet Union. It creates the prerequisites for a strengthening of mutual trust, for progress along the path of detente, disarmament, and the consolidation of international security. In this connection, the delegation mentioned the wide-ranging proposals of the USSR on a whole package of issues concerning arms and disarmament verification [kontrol].

Signs Cooperation Agreement

LD050834 Moscow TASS in English 0655 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Bonn May 4 TASS -- An agreement between the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee and the FRG Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry on cooperation in agrarian research was signed here today. The document was signed by first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, now on a visit in the FRG, and by FRG Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Ignaz Kiechle.

The agreement envisages such forms of cooperation as the exchange of information and results of scientific research, scientists, biological material as well as joint scientific projects.

In the four years ahead the emphasis will be made on cooperation in plant growing and livestock breeding, farm technology, processing of farm produce, organisation of agricultural production.

GENSCHER'S VIEWS ON SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY NOTED

LD172243 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- An article by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, vice federal chancellor and minister of foreign affairs of West Germany, in the first issue of the magazine EUROPEAN AFFAIRS is one of the few public attempts of a leading Western politician to give an objective appraisal of Soviet foreign policy since the 27th CPSU Congress, Vladimir Iordanskiy says in the weekly ZA RUBEZHOM.

The minister clearly tries to take a basically new look at East-West relations. That veteran statesman, the author says, displays a fresh and bold approach which cannot help evoking respect. The beginnings of a new mode of thinking and a new approach to international realities are manifest in his article.

Genscher is convinced that the current turning point in East-West relations offers opportunities which must not be missed. He stresses that the West should be ready for a comprehensive disarmament process and the establishment of security structures to give equal security to all. In his view, the West should enter into large-scale economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. Lastly, Genscher shares the view, voiced by Mikhail Gorbachev on more than one occasion, that Europe is a common home for all the people living in that continent.

At the same time Genscher's article bears an imprint of decades of mistrust of the USSR. Innovatively discussing the nature and characteristics of Soviet foreign policy today, Genscher often is impeded by trite prejudices against the Soviet Union. Yet his ultimate conclusion, one at which he arrived not without difficulty, is that there now is a potential for new departures in East-West relations.

TURKISH MINISTER CITED ON INF, BILATERAL TIES

PM300823 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Stepanov dispatch: "Turkey's Position"]

[Text] Ankara, 23 Apr -- Evaluating the recent Soviet peace proposals and the state of Turkish-Soviet relations in an interview in the Turkish newspaper DAILY NEWS, Turkish Foreign Minister V. Halefoglu declared: "We welcome the positive steps in the arms control sphere. They are more promising than ever before. A real opportunity to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe has emerged as a result of the Soviet-U.S. high-level dialogue. At the same time, we believe that the implementation of the 'zero option' in Europe must be complemented by the reduction of the balance of tactical nuclear weapon delivery vehicles to the most flexible level possible. In our view, attention must be devoted to ensuring that the remaining medium-range missiles in Asia cannot threaten any NATO country.

"Turkey has always advocated detente and economic cooperation with East European countries on the basis of mutual respect, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. [paragraph continues]

"Our relations with the Soviet Union have recently been developing in a favorable direction. This is evidenced, in particular, by the long-term agreements on supplies of a large quantity of Soviet natural gas to Turkey."

FURTHER REACTION TO PEACE INITIATIVE PROPOSALS

Belgium: Agreement Favored

LD301729 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Brussels April 30 TASS -- The Bureau of the Belgian Government coalition Christian People's Party has come out in favour of the earliest conclusion of a Soviet-American agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe.

The party's executive at a session on Wednesday opposed the advancing of any conditions that might hinder or complicate the conclusion of a medium-range missile agreement.

The Christian Democrats maintained that talks on reducing shorter-range missiles and conventional arms should be started in the same spirit.

The Western European countries should urgently work out a unified stance on disarmament and detente in Europe and around the world, it was pointed out at the session.

Danish Resolution

LD302058 Moscow TASS in English 1912 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Copenhagen April 30 TASS -- Today the Danish Folketing [parliament] unanimously passed a resolution making it incumbent on the government to back at NATO and other organizations the conclusion of a Soviet-American agreement on withdrawing medium-range missiles from Europe and of a treaty which would free Europe from nuclear arms to the maximum possible extent.

Spain Agrees 'In Principle'

LD301801 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Paris April 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan reports:

In principle Spain backs the proposal on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez said here today. He pointed out that Spain had no nuclear weapons and did not wish their deployment. The head of the Spanish Foreign Office spoke at a press conference after the end of the negotiations with French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. The France Presse Agency reports that the two sides pointed to the concurrence of their stands on East-West relations and disarmament issues.

Italian CP Leader Comments

LD042215 Moscow TASS in English 2155 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Rome May 4 TASS -- "The prospect for the resumption of the policy of detente, even if in conditions of strong opposition, is increasing. We are possibly at a turning point. The agreement on complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, which should be concluded within a short period of time, has become possible". General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party Allesandro Natta said this today at a plenary meeting of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the Italian Communist Party. "This agreement would lead not only to limitation and control, but also to reduction of nuclear arsenals of the USA and the USSR", he went on. Emphasizing the importance of such an agreement, Natta said that there is no alternative to agreed-upon, balanced and verifiable disarmament.

The general secretary of the Italian Communist Party declared: "We have been absolutely right in positively assessing and supporting the course of the new Soviet leadership. Europe is vitally interested in declaring for overcoming the positions which could be an obstacle to the working out of the subsequent, more scopeful agreements in the sphere of disarmament. What is meant is above all the stand of the Reagan administration which stubbornly declares in defence of SDI, the arbitrary interpretation and substantial violation of the ABM Treaty", the speaker said.

The plenary meeting has on the agenda "communists' tasks and proposals for the implementation of the new political stage in the life of the republic".

Paris' Stand Denounced

LD231010 Moscow TASS in English 0931 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Paris April 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikita Yermakov reports:

Jean-Claude Gayssot, a member of the Politburo, secretary of the French Communist Party Central Committee, has denounced a non-constructive stand taken by the French leadership on issues of disarmament. Paris is now trying to explain to other West European countries why it is allegedly dangerous to disarm, he told a press conference.

All these reservations are not justified and, moreover, are an obstacle to advancement along the road of disarmament, the member of the French Communist Party leadership stressed. He said that in launching its peace initiatives, the Soviet Union took into account French apprehensions by proposing a solution to the problem of shorter-range nuclear missiles, chemical weapons and conventional armaments.

U.S. CHARGE AGAINST NORWEGIAN FIRM 'INVALID'

PM050839 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 4

[N. Ivanov dispatch: "Unscripted Denoucement" under rubric "Behind the Scenes of Events"]

[Text] Oslo -- The episode is reminiscent of a detective novel. [paragraph continues]

The authors had planned for the denoucement to be played out, if not behind bars, then at least in the courtroom with a large crowd present.

Newspaper headlines such as "Illegal Arms Deliveries to the Soviet Union" and "Pentagon Puts Pressure on Norwegian Firm" are fully in line with the adventure novel genre. The United States has accused the Norwegians (the Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk company), as it has accused the Swedes in the past, of bypassing existing regulations and supplying the Soviet Union with equipment which could be used in the military industry.

As the newspapers have made clear, during the last 4 years Pentagon representatives have been closely watching the activity of Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk and accumulating "compromising material." It is during this period that the leaders of the firm have been holding talks with Soviet foreign trade organizations regarding the supply of digital-control cutting tools. The Japanese agreed to make the tools, the Norwegians agreed to be responsible for the digital program control, and Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk agreed to be the main supplier. This is a rough outline of the elementary deal which, thanks to Washington's endeavors, has been turned into a punishable act.

The first shot was fired by THE WASHINGTON POST, which threatened the Norwegians with serious complications for their part in "illegal supplies of secret technology," as the newspaper put it. Later the newspapers calculated that Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk could be liable for a fine of 20 million kroner and could be barred from the American market. However, a real sensation was caused after a statement by a Pentagon spokesman, who announced that "the Russians are using Norwegian technology to produce silent-screw propellors for submarines." They knew which sore point to put pressure on! Norwegian pro-NATO circles have long been intimidating the population with allegations that the cunning Russians send their submarines into Norwegian fjords.

Oslo has not remained indifferent to these statements. An inquiry was immediately initiated at two levels. One commission was led by police officials, while others incorporated representatives of the ministry of trade and shipping and the Industrial Council, specialists, and scientists. But the further they looked into the matter, the clearer it became how farfetched the accusations brought against Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk were.

The firm acted in strict accordance with the law and obtained permission from the Norwegian foreign trade department to supply the USSR with electronic equipment, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The technology supplied by the firm cannot be used in the military industry, Professor Bjorn (Bartch) confirmed. The commission led by the scientist has admitted that the claims made by the American side are completely invalid. End of story.

ECONOMIC TALKS BEGIN WITH LIBYA IN MOSCOW

LD050807 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The Soviet Union and Libya have begun economic negotiations in Moscow. The talks involve Foreign Minister Madallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, who arrived in the Soviet Union on Monday. The two sides are discussing the further development of bilateral cooperation which spreads to power engineering, the oil and gas industry, geology, and other fields. Libya has built with the Soviet aid an extensive gas pipeline stretching along its Mediterranean coast, electric transmission lines, a nuclear research center, the biggest in the Arab world.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ARAB DELEGATION'S VISIT

Gromyko on Gulf War

PM301335 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 87 Second Edition p 2

[PRAVDA headline: "The USSR Wants an End to the Senseless War"]

[Text] Andrey Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium received in the Kremlin 29 April a delegation of the League of Arab States (LAS) Committee on the Iran-Iraq conflict. The delegation consists of Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali (head of the delegation), member of the Revolutionary Command Council, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq Tariq 'Aziz, chief of the economic department of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry, Faysal Saleh al-Mutawwi; and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Yemem Arab Republic to the USSR Muhammad 'Abd al-'Uthman.

The head of the delegation and its members spoke of the efforts the Arab countries take to end the Iran-Iraq war. Specifically, a session of the League of Arab States council held early this April in Tunis adopted the decision to send the committee's delegations to the Security Council member countries to increase international efforts toward ending the Iran-Iraq war. A group of high-ranking diplomats that arrived in Moscow is one such delegation.

The delegates emphasized that the situation in the Near and Middle East, complex as it is, is aggravated still more by the Iran-Iraq conflict.

No matter what scales are used to weigh the fault of one or the other side in the war and the reasons behind the conflict, one conclusion suggests itself: that the war must be stopped, Andrey Gromyko said. Neither Iran nor Iraq can afford to spill human blood on battlefields. Meanwhile, that blood is spilt today.

Every objective person, observing that senseless slaughter, arrives at a firm conclusion that both sides must lay down their arms without delay and begin negotiating.

The Soviet Union, the Soviet leadership has declared more than once that even one day of war is worse than years of political talks in the quest of a peaceful solution to disputed questions. Today's international life confirms the correctness of this conclusion.

It goes without saying that those forces and those leaders who ostentatiously ignore the opinion of virtually the whole world bear the responsibility for the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Wherever the question of the Iran-Iraq war is raised -- in the United Nations or at other international forums, the Soviet Union will always be on the side of those who demand the immediate end of the war. The Soviet state, as the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev, has stressed more than once, wishes to maintain and develop good relations with both Iran and Iraq.

There is rich experience of maintaining such relations with both countries. This applies particularly to Iran with which the Soviet Union has a common border. Now the Soviet people are in favor of the two neighboring countries, the USSR and Iran, looking at each other across the border in an open and friendly way.

The Soviet Union is strongly in favor of the immediate end of the Iran-Iraq war.

It has long since become an axiom of international life that not a single state has a right to interfere in the internal affairs of another state, no matter what pretext is used to justify an attempt at such interference. The Iran-Iraq conflict must not be an exception. After all, the two countries, founding members of the United Nations, 42 years ago signed the UN Charter which prohibits the interference of states in the internal affairs of other states. That charter is a valid, operating document of international law and no one has the right to break it.

The Soviet side expressed profound satisfaction that the Soviet Union's stand coincides with the stand of all the Warsaw Treaty countries which have long since declared in favor of the cessation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Andrey Gromyko dwelt briefly on some other questions of the Middle East situation in answer to pronouncements of the interlocutors.

The representatives of four Arab countries on behalf of the Arab League expressed gratitude for the setting out of the Soviet Union's stand on the question which deeply agitates the peoples of all Arab countries. They highly assessed the Soviet Union's foreign policy, its role in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and its agents in the Middle East and the Soviet Union's efforts aimed at averting the threat of nuclear war, at disarmament, at safeguarding peace among nations.

The conversation passed in an easy and friendly atmosphere.

USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov took part in the meeting with the committee.

Shevardnadze Greets Group Head

LD291852 Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today received the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation Abdellatif Filali, who is now in Moscow with a delegation of the League of Arab States.

Some questions of bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest were discussed in the course of the friendly conversation. Also discussed were questions of the situation in the Mediterranean area in light of the Soviet proposals directed at turning that area into a zone of peace and cooperation. The Moroccan minister raised the question of Western Sahara and in this connection the Soviet side confirmed its principled position on this question and said it should be solved politically in accordance with resolutions of the United Nations Organisation and the Organisation of African Unity.

Morocco's Filali on Meetings

LD291404 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1315 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr (TASS) -- We came to the USSR to acquaint the Soviet leaders with recent events on the Iran-Iraq front and to discuss with them ways of stopping this conflict, said Abdellatif Filali, Morocco's foreign minister. The Moroccan minister came to Moscow Tuesday leading a delegation from the Committee of the League of Arab States.

During Tuesday's meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and today's talks with Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, our delegation informed the Soviet side about the Arab countries' position regarding the Iran-Iraq war, said the minister in a conversation with TASS correspondent Sergey Medvedko. Our committee, which has been called the Committee of Seven, was set up especially to examine this conflict and to seek ways of ending it. We have told the Soviet side of the Arab League's intention to put a new initiative forward at the UN Security Council aimed at ending the Iran-Iraq war. We are counting on the support of the Soviet Union on this matter.

During the Moscow meetings, Abdellatif Filali pointed out in conclusion, we were convinced of the constructive position of the USSR which favors the very rapid elimination of a hotbed of tension in the Persian Gulf area by political means.

COMMENTARY CITES AL-WATAN ON U.S. GULF AIMS

NC281130 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States will resort to any means to exacerbate the war between Iran and Iraq. Under the guise of defending the freedom of navigation, it deploys its Navy in the Persian Gulf and prepares to establish its supremacy in the region.

Kuwait's AL-WATAN writes: Every day Washington's officials state that U.S. strategic-economic interests depend on Persian Gulf security. It should be noted that the United States depends on Persian Gulf oil for only 3 percent of its total consumption. In contrast, Japan depends on the Persian Gulf for 90 percent of its oil. So how credible are such allegations by U.S. officials? Moreover, the Hormuz Strait is not the only route for transferring oil; it can be moved through Turkey, Jordan, and the Red Sea.

If the United States is so worried about terrorism, why does it not turn its attention to the vast scale of this phenomenon in the FRG, France, and Italy?

The truth is that the United States is not very worried about what happens in these allied countries. The issue of antiterrorism is merely a cover Washington uses to interfere in the domestic affairs of Persian Gulf countries.

Can one trust a United States whose assistant White House press secretary, Larry Speakes, in January 1987 attributed the taking of American hostages in Beirut to international terrorism, against which the entire world should allegedly be defended? Moreover, during the ICO summit Washington repeated to everyone the idea of the inevitability of terrorism in an effort to destabilize the situation. A look at history reminds us of the White House's ridiculous tale of a Soviet threat in 1980. At that time U.S. NSC experts prepared a report for Congress, on the basis of which they requested that U.S. military forces be sent to the Persian Gulf to thwart an alleged Soviet armed aggression.

Meanwhile, Washington continues to pour oil on the flames of the Iran-Iraq war, because its interests lie in the protraction of the conflict. This war actually serves the plans of the United States, which is trying to further exacerbate the regional situation to facilitate the establishment of its diktat on the people of the region. Washington is well acquainted with the Soviet Union's relations with Persian Gulf states. These relations are an example of respect for the sovereignty of regional countries. Thus, all U.S. allegations of the ghost of the Soviet threat are mere lies. The Americans are shouting with all their might: "O peoples of the Persian Gulf, prepare yourselves! The ghost of the Soviet threat is coming!" The people look around and see nothing but U.S. banks and companies in every corner of the region. The only threat these people see is the Pentagon's aircraft carriers stationed near their coasts. The people know that the U.S. Armed Forces conduct training exercises in U.S. terrain very similar to that of the Persian Gulf; and they also know that the United States is arming Iran with various types of weapons. If the Persian Gulf states increase the price of oil by $1, the United States immediately doubles the price of its products.

Kuwait's AL-WATAN points out: The time has come for the people of the Persian Gulf to realize that Washington's crocodile tears over their security are merely efforts to create tension, infiltrate this area under the veil of artificial ghosts, and distract the Arabs' attention with irrelevant problems. Furthermore, Washington wants to make the Arab countries buy more U.S. industrial products.

It is difficult to draw a line between U.S. and Israeli interests in the Middle East. However, it should be said that U.S. policy boils down to murdering first and then joining in the spectacular mourning ceremony.

SOVIET OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

PM011549 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 87 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Soviet Minister Plenipotentiary Mikhail Tsvigun by 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Satter in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] In an interview with AL-WAFD, Mikhail Tsvigun, minister plenipotentiary at the Soviet Embassy in Cairo, expressed his country's happiness at the rapid improvement of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. The minister praised the endeavors of the Egyptian political leadership and President Hosni Mubarak personally and their readiness to restore and develop normal relations with the Soviet Union. In the interview, Mikhail Tsvigun discussed aspects of present cooperation between the two countries, stressing that these relations will be considerably improved in the near future.

He said that an Egyptian-Soviet friendship society will be established and Russian Consulates will be opened in Alexandria and Port Said. Soviet cultural centers in Cairo and Alexandria will also be opened.

The following is text of the interview with the Soviet minister plenipotentiary in Cairo:

['Abd al-Sattar] The seventies witnessed considerable coolness in the relations between Cairo and Moscow. Who is to blame for that?

[Tsvigun] I believe that a constant dialogue about divergent policies, stands, and views and ways to develop countries and regimes in their entirety is a characteristic of the era. We are in favor of purely peaceful dialogue. This was the difference between us.

['Abd al-Sattar] But the Soviet leaders adopted a hard line when Egypt wanted to establish a balanced relationship with the two superpowers.

[Tsvigun] We reject the criterion "balanced relations between the two superpowers" when evaluating the political line an independent state pursues in international affairs. Egypt has the right and the sovereignty to determine the nature, content, and volume of its relations with other countries and peoples. In this regard we would like to point to the endeavors by the present Egyptian leadership and President Husni Mubarak personally to resume and develop normal relations with the Soviet Union. We are happy with the rapid improvement in relations between the two countries, but I absolutely disagree with what you say about the Soviet Union showing a hardening of attitude at any time. Such a practice has been contrary to the foreign policy line of the Soviet state ever since it was established following the Great October Socialist Revolution. Perhaps the Soviet stand in recent negotiations between the Egyptian and Soviet delegations during four meetings in both Cairo and Moscow, which ended and settled the complex financial problems in a manner satisfactory to both sides, goes to prove the mutual desire of Egypt and the Soviet Union to strengthen the ties between them.

['Abd al-Sattar] What about the volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union?

[Tsvigun] We have not yet received the final data but it ranges between 500 and 600 pounds. This figure can be increased if we trade on the basis of realistic prices and not high international prices. We expect the Egyptian Government's help in this regard, otherwise it will be difficult to maintain the present level.

['Abd al-Sattar] Why have Russian experts not participated in the repairs being carried out to the Aswan Dam?

[Tsvigun] I would like to explain that what is currently happening is that the rotors of the dam turbines, not the turbines themselves, are being replaced. I would like to stress that the dam itself does not need repairs. The allegations about the existence of cracks in the dam structure and about the unsound choice of site for building the dam are inconsistent with reality and have often been rebutted by specialized Egyptian committees. But such allegations are repeated from time to time by those who are displeased with the improvement in relations between our countries. Russian experts are not participating in the work being carried out in Aswan because the Egyptian Government did not ask us to do so. But I can assert that Egyptian experts, especially those working in hyrdoelectric stations, are capable of carrying out this kind of work.

['Abd al-Sattar] Have the Russians considered helping Egypt economically in the present difficult conditions Egypt is experiencing?

[Tsvigun] Everybody should know that the Soviet Union gives the developing countries about 2 percent of its total GNP in aid. I believe Egypt would be one of those countries. We are currently cooperating with you in all fields and we have recently agreed that Russian experts should renovate the iron and steel complex and the aluminum complex in Hulwan in order to double its production capacity, and also expand the ceramics factory and establish a battery factory in Hulwan. On the Egyptian side, the agreement was signed by Minister of Industry Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab. These projects will be completed in 3 years at a cost of $100 million.

['Abd al-Sattar] The Russian military presence in Afghanistan is tantamount to a blatant challenge to the Islamic states. Are the Soviet leaders aware of this?

[Tsvigun] We entered Afghanistan only at the express request of the government of Hafizollah Amin, the former Afghan president. I can say that the Afghan Government is currently carrying out a national reconciliation program between itself and the mujahidin. Recently we have withdrawn six brigades [as published] of the total Soviet forces stationed in Afghanistan. All Soviet forces will withdraw as soon as the results of the current UN-sponsored talks in Geneva between the Afghan Government and the Pakistani Government are announced. [as published] I am not surprised by what is said about the Russian military presence in Afghanistan because Egypt came under similar attack during its support for the Yemeni revolution.

['Abd al-Sattar] How did the Soviet Union deal with the effects of the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor?

[Tsvigun] This incident showed that the atom has gotten out of man's control and demonstrated the extent of the danger. Many citizens died as a result of the reactor's explosion and the Soviet Union suffered materially. Those who trade in politics want to exploit this disaster to achieve their objectives, which are hostile to the Soviet Union. They have gone so far as to claim that 15,000 Europeans are threatened with death in the coming years due to radiation effects. As to how the effects of the "Chernobyl" disaster are being dealt with, we halted the export of any commodity for some time [as published] and we currently check all exports in order to ensure that they are radiation-free. We analyze samples of river water in the reactor area 15 times a day and in the Kiev metropolitan area 20 times a day. I would like to assert that the reactor is now operating and we are now building a power block.

['Abd al-Sattar] Finally, how do you view Egyptian-Soviet relations in light of recent developments?

[Tsvigun] I believe that the near future will witness considerable improvement in the relations betwen the two countries. We will shortly set up an Egyptian-Soviet friendshiip society, Russian Consulates in Alexandria and Port Said, and cultural centers in Cairo and Alexandria.

CPSU ADOPTS DECISION ON HOUSING, CULTURAL SERVICES

LD040941 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS -- The decision "On Measures to Guarantee the Fulfilment of Targets Approved for the 12th Five-Year Plan Period on the Development of the Material and Technical Basis of the Social and Cultural Spheres" which was adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers provides for an increase in volumes of housing construction in the USSR before 1990 from 595 million square metres, envisaged by the five-year plan earlier, to 630 million.

The decision points out that in line with the social policy for the 12th five-year plan period (1986-1990), worked out by the 27th party congress, it is planned to raise considerably people's well-being. Capital investments were considerably boosted to develop the material basis for social and cultural services. In the first year of the five-year plan period the country fulfilled plans of building housing, general educational schools and various outpatient clinics. But the issue is still acute. The decision says that a radical change has not been registered in strengthening the material and technical basis of the social and cultural sectors.

To overcome as early as possible the lag in the development of the material and technical basis for the social and cultural services and to accelerate the solution of the housing problem in the country, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers approved for 1988-1990 new targets for putting into operation projects of the social and cultural services on a nation-wide scale. It is planned, for instance, that the volumes of building schools, preschool establishments, vocational schools, clubs, polyclinics, homes for labour veterans and the aged and [words indistinct] homes will grow 50-100 percent in 1988 over the 1986 level.

PRAVDA CITES GEORGIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

PM041937 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Second Edition p 2

[Correspondent G. Lebanidze report: "More Initiative! Georgian Communists Discuss the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum Decisions"]

[Text] Tbilisi -- Many Communists and working people of the republic participated in the preparations for this Georgian Communist Party Central Committee plenum. One month before it opened, local newspapers, television, and radio reported the plenum's agenda, and the Central Committee asked people to share their thoughts, suggestions, and experience. The response included hundreds of letters, which made it possible to learn people's opinion in greater depth and to more accurately judge the situation in party organizations and labor collectives. At the same time, members and candidate members of the Central Committee and leaders of the republic's ministries and departments met with working people and consulted them on the spot about many questions of the restructuring that is under way. The Public Opinion Study Center under the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee conducted sociological research. As a result it was possible to conclude that, while unanimously approving and supporting the policy of renewal outlined by the party, the Communists and working people simultaneously voice dissatisfaction with the pace of restructuring in the republic. The results achieved are still insignificant and ineffective.

A sense of dissatisfaction with the work done was heard both in the report by D. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, and in the plenum speeches. Not in all sectors of the national economic complex have the causes of stagnant phenomena been exposed and a specific action program been elaborated. A number of party committees and primary party organizations take a passive stance and continue to tolerate shortcomings. This accounts to a considerable degree for the fact that the growth of indicators in the economy is not as dynamic as it could be. Speakers noted, however, that the republic has made definite progress in the struggle to eliminate the years-long lag behind average union indicators in socioeconomic development.

In the first year of the present 5-year plan national income increased 3.8 percent instead of the planned 3.3 percent. The economic indicators of a number of enterprises and associations that have switched to economic accountability and self-financing and are working under conditions of state acceptance also improved. There are positive changes in the development of agricultural production and other sectors. However, the braking mechanism is still strong. In the speakers' opinion, it is underpinned by the wage-leveling, sponging, and consumerist mentality that have become established in the republic. Many people still suppose the results of unskilled management, say, can be written off at the state's expense.

Thus, the republic Light Industry Ministry, while switching to the new conditions, is acting in the old way. During the first 2 months of this year it fulfilled the profit plan by only 68.3 percent. Minister B. Makashvili, failing to display proper initiative in solving problems, continues to await instructions from above. The principles of economic accountability are only formally being implemented in the sector. At the 1 May and "Amirani" Sewn Goods Factories 80 percent of the workers have been "united" in teams, but no appreciable progress in enhancing labor productivity and improving other indicators is visible. Other sectors are also being only slowly restructured. The Batumi Oil Refinery and the "Elva" Science and Production Association, for example, are working in the old manner, and reserves remain concealed.

This situation is all the more intolerable, the plenum participants said, because all Georgian industrial enterprises are switching to the new management conditions next year. This demands resolute action of the republic council of Ministers (chairman: Cherkeziya) and greater party control over the realization of what is planned. However, as can be seen from the speeches, control is not satisfactory everywhere. The following fact was cited. Last year the republic State Arbitration Board fined violators of contract discipline approximately R55 million. What has happened? A similar situation is taking shape today. Specific persons were named. For example, T. Paychadze and R. Cheishvili, leaders of the Machine Tool Building Association and the Kutaisi Motor Vehicle Plant, are restructuring extremely slowly under conditions of state acceptance.

Analyzing the situation in the countryside, the keynote speaker and those who spoke in the debate mentioned this year's severe weather conditions -- they have substantially complicated matters in agricultural production. Yet Communists see something else as the chief issued. Nothing can justify, for example, shortcomings and omissions in work on transferring plant and vegetable growing to intensive techniques and in organizing the financial and economic service of the agro-industrial complex. Last year sovkhozes had a profit shortfall of R55 million and processing industry enterprises of R144 million. Rural construction workers had planned profits of more than R30 million but also ended the year with losses.

Serious criticism was leveled at the republic Gosplan and O. Bardzelashvili, its chairman. The workers of this important staff need greater initiative and principledness and must not be led along by defenders of narrow departmental interests and those who are fond of "easy plans." The speakers advised giving free range to the Poti experiment, which initiated the creation of territorial intersectorial associations in the republic and has received all-union recognition. Approving the thoroughly elaborated comprehensive program "Georgia: Science, Technology, Quality-90," the plenum pointed out that a great place in implementing it is allocated to the State Committee for Science and Technology, headed by Central Committee Member I. Zhordaniya, and to the republic Academy of Sciences.

There was a detailed discussion of questions of leadership in the social area. A particularly large number of blunders and omissions was brought to light here. In this regard the report and the speeches were sharply critical of Tbilisi Party Gorkom in particular. Taking the floor, Gorkom First Secretary V. Alavidze acknowledged the criticism as fair. A check by the USSR Bank for Financing Capital Investments revealed large-scale data padding in the construction of housing, health care projects, and children's establishments. The speakers also criticized Construction Minister D. Mandzhgaladze and "Gruzagrostroy" Chairman I. Kharatishvili for those violations. Construction workers have considerable reserves. It is necessary, above all, to enhance the industrial standard of construction sites and improve work quality.

There are no decisive changes in trade (minister: A. Movsesyan), consumer services (minister: K. Saliya), or the Georgian Potrebsoyuz (chairman: K. Shavishvili). Working people's demands are being satisfied poorly, while, on the other hand, customers continue to be given short change, short weight, and short measure, and there are a lot of unrecorded products in the trade network. The development of individual labor activity and of various cooperative forms of labor organization, the speakers said, is a substantial aid to improving the services sphere. The first steps have been taken in this direction. Thus, 32 cooperatives have started functioning the public catering system, 20 in consumer services, and 25 in consumer goods production. More than 500 applications have been made, but the sluggishness of some leaders and fear of innovation are still really hindering the matter, particularly in Rustavi, Batumi, and Kutaisi.

The unjustified tardiness in restructuring and the laggardness of certain sectors are the result, above all, of blunders and mistakes in selecting, placing, and training cadres. The plenum participants drew this conclusion. Subjectivism in cadre work is only slowly being overcome, and the experience of labor collectives that elect their leaders is being studied and utilized poorly. Old instructions and habits are sometimes a hindrance. T. Lordkipanidze, first secretary of Kutaisi Party Gorkom, cited the following fact. To appoint a school director it is necessary to confirm his candidacy with more than 20 senior officials on 7 bodies. Under the new conditions, the speaker believes, many such procedures will be simplified, and more reliance will be placed on the collective's opinion.

Substantial mistakes in placing cadres have been committee by the Vanskiy, Tianetskiy, Akhmetskiy, Goriyskiy, and a number of other party raykoms and by the party organizations of the Transcaucasian Railroad, the Ministry of Motor Transport, and the Georgian Marine Shipping Company.

The plenum made recommendations for rectifying the blunders as quickly as possible. It is important to more boldly promote fresh forces. [paragraph continues]

Meanwhile, 55,000 specialists in the republic with higher and secondary specialized education are not employed in social production. Last year just half of the pedagogic institute graduates began work. Recalling that this is not just a social but also a moral and a political problem, the plenum very strictly demanded that the Gosplan and the republic's ministries bring the training of specialists into line with the needs of the national economy and abandon the gross output approach to this matter. The "Cadres" targeted program approved by the plenum will help implement the Leninist principles of work with cadres.

Many speakers spoke of the need to improve the style of organizational and educational work and resolutely remove formalism. The struggle against excessive organization in holding party committee meetings and plenums remains an acute question. They are still frequently held in a formal manner, without businesslike, critical discussion of problems, and they amount to reports of one's own work and general appeals.

"Our Chiatura Party Gorkom recently held a plenum," reported G. Tkemaladze, tunneler of the "Chiaturmarganets" Production Association's Lenin Ore Mining Administration. "They discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. But what happened? Criticism of shortcomings in the gorkom's work was very weak and unconvincing. There were few speakers, and the old habit of preparing the speakers and the speeches themselves in advance had not been overcome."

That rebuke may also be addressed to some other party committees and primary party organizations. Impartial criticism was addressed to the Central Committee's departments, Bureau, and secretaries. It was pointed out that the Central Committee's sectorial departments have not yet rid themselves of the departmental approach, and not all workers are sufficiently knowledgeable about the situation. D. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee; B. Nikolskiy, second secretary of the Central Committee; P. Gilashvili, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium; and O. Cherkeziya, chairman of the Council of Ministers, were recommended to more persistently create an atmosphere of unfetteredness, openness, and trust, in which a collective opinion is shaped better and unity of action is ensured.

KAZAKH CENTRAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES OBLAST MEETINGS

LD301340 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] At a 28 April meeting, the Communist Party bureau of the Kazakhstan Central Committee examined the results of talks at obkom plenums on the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 plenum. It was noted that the discussion had been held generally in an organized fashion and in an atmosphere of criticism, self-criticism, and adherence to party principles. The reports and the majority of speeches delivered by communists objectively analyzed the progress of restructuring and the prevailing problems, shortcomings, and omissions.

Those participating in the plenums unanimously condemned the crude violations of party life norms and the perversions of cadre policy that had been allowed to occur by the Kazakhstan Central Committee's former leadership. Full support was given to the eighth Central Committee plenum's conclusion that the perpetrators be held accountable by the party. The link between the failures, cadre policy, and shortcomings in the social and economic development of the oblasts was stressed.

The Central Committee bureau made it incumbent on obkoms to build on the experience gained while preparing for the oblast committee plenums; to achieve broad dissemination and further development at current city and rayon party committee plenums and at meetings of primary party organizations; to secure the steady expansion of glasnost, of the democratic principles of cadre policy, and of systematic accounting by leaders at all levels to their collectives; to certify competence of party, local soviet, trade union, Komsomol, and other public body staffs and of specialists in the national economy; and to organize their professional and political education. It was made incumbent on party, local soviet, economic, and public organizations to invigorate the struggle in all stagnated areas of socio-political life; to accelerate the republic's social and economic development by introducing new economic management methods and labor organization, by making achievements in science and technology, and by more fully using the potential already created; to take effective steps to solve the housing problem, improve the food supply for the population, and strengthen discipline and order; to widely hold socialist competition to unfailingly fulfill the plans and pledges for 1987; and to have a worthy reception of the 70th Great October Anniversary.

The Central Committee bureau, having discussed the results of the republican conference of chairmen of People's Control Commissions attached to obkoms and of party commissions attached to city and rayon party committees, demanded that party committees radically improve guidance of party control bodies and secure the restructuring of the style and methods of their work in accordance with the demands of the 27th party congress and of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum. Verification of the fulfillment of party and government decisions and of the rules and program requirements of the CPSU must become the principal work of control commissions. It was recommended that an annual examination of reports be instituted on the work of party control bodies at plenums and in the bureaus of party committees.

Matters relating to the accelerated mastering of the Tengiz oil field and to the organization of the work of student detachments in the Kazakh SSR in the summer of 1987 were discussed. A resolution of the Kazakhstan Central Committee and of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers has been adopted on these matters.

The Central Committee meeting discussed and confirmed the certification of competence of (?Servatanov), first deputy minister of highways of the Kazakh SSR. A report was heard by Shalakhmetov, chairman of the Kazakh SSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, on the preparation of a reserve for his post. Other matters were also examined.

MOSCOW NEWS ON OPENNESS' IMPACT ON KAZAKHSTAN

PM300913 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 17, 26 Apr 87 p 8

[Viktor Loshak, Askar Nurmanov report: "Expurgation"]

[Text] Alma Ata/Moscow -- There was no need to build the 365 apartments, several polyclinics, hospitals, children's sanatoriums, hotels and hostels. They used to be called hunting lodges, special cottages, inns and apartments for visitors. In Kazakhstan these were denied from those who considered state property to be their own and who illegally used what belongs to the Republic's people.

It is amazing, but if you ask at any newsstand in Kazakhstan which papers sell out the quickest, you'll be told that the greatest demand is on the days when KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, OGNI ALATAU or VECHERNAYAYA ALMA-ATA carry reports on sessions of the city and district Soviets, plenary meetings or party conferences. [paragraph continues]

Hopelessly tiresome in their time these official materials are now discussed in a lively way and profusely quoted. And it is not just a rush for a scoop, not just curiosity as to who has been demoted and who promoted, but a businesslike interest in the reconstruction of social life.

People in Kazakhstan really want to know the truth. KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA recently published an article entitled "Poisoned by permissibility". It was about A. Askarov, former first secretary of the Alma-Ata City and, later, of the Chimkent Region Party Committee. This title would probably be very appropriate for stories about some others who managed the affairs of Kazakhstan in recent years.

Paradise Beyond The Turnpike [subhead]

The turnpike sticks out like a sore thumb in the surroundings. An apple orchard is in bloom along the road, pheasants strut about paying no attention to people and deer roam around not hurrying to run off. Not far off is the Kapchagayskoye Sea with the thickets of cat's-tails on the shore. However, 80 km away from Alma-Ata you see a turnpike. "Stop, Karachingil Hunting Farm of economic Administration of Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers. No trespassing".

We stopped. "Go on," unwillingly says the guard, after looking at the ID cards of one of us and of the photo correspondent, "but, mind you, they won't let you further than the office."

What, then, is the very special project located amidst all the beauty behind the turnpike? It is the place where only recently the most highly placed officials in the republic rested and went hunting. I suppose, many of them would not like to remember today about the merry weekends they spent here. But you cannot escape the documents, the revealing figures listed in the column of expenditures on "sports equipment" showing the money spent on gifts -- stuffed antelopes, boars and steppe eagles that were killed here. The dozens of people who provided the services at Karachingil know only too well who it was that had come to stay at plush two-stored manor, who it was that trod the soft, costly rugs and carpets and who crossed cues over the three billiard tables.

If you look at the lists of the people who came here as constant visitors, you can put the word "former" against nearly all of the names. They have left. But what about the people who had seen all this and grown used to the fact that some of the "hunters" were demoted and others came to replace them. How are we to explain to them and persuade them that they will not appear again?

The republic, and not it alone, is experiencing a complicated change in people's conscience. People must be assured that the time of paradise for the elite has passed, never to return. There can be no two truths -- one which is declared from the rostrums, and the other which is being affirmed in real life.

Bulletproof Cotton Wool [subhead]

"Some people might think that the facts of violation of citizens' rights and laws in Kazakhstan became known only today," says Arkadiy Boretskiy, chief of the Administration for General Supervision of the USSR Procurator's Office. "It is said that too many facts were being kept silent about, allegedly, so as not to damge the prestige of the republic, and in reality, of those who led it. [paragraph continues]

The USSR Procurator's Office had to investigate how apartments had been distributed in the block of flats that was built for the Institute of Mineral Raw Materials. How did it happen that the institute got only 13 (and the smallest ones at that) of the 40 apartments in the house? Simply because the apartments were given not to the scientists but to workers of the republic's Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, ministers and deputy ministers. The USSR Procurator-General had at the time written a special letter about this case to the then First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan."

Now, when many facts from the life of those who led the Republic have become not only known but made public, it is understandable why neither the population's complaints nor the warning letters from the USSR General-Procurator managed to have any effect. The republic was not aware of the bulletproof cotton wool which Dinmukhamed Kunayev had surrounded himself with. As it was said at the March Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, the people who had been nearest to Kunayev, turned out to be the most corrupted by power and had for many long years replaced the function of helping people with the function of imperiously ruling them.

D. Bekezhanov, Kunayev's assistant; A. Statenin, head of the managing office of the central committee, and A. Lysyy, business-manager of the Council of Ministers, for example, took, the three of them, a Tu-134 air liner, flew on a spree from Alma-Ata to Khabarovsk and then to Magadan and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. They also arranged an exhibition of Yugoslav furniture in Alma-Ata and after it was closed distributed the exhibits among their friends.

At that time as many as 56,000 families in Alma-Ata were on the waiting list to get better housing conditions and nearly 70,000 -- in Karaganda, another large city in Kazakhstan. Hundreds of apartments were being distributed in Alma-Ata and regional centres of the Republic, to those who had pull, according to phone calls or personal orders from high officials. The role of the Soviets in distribution of housing was reduced to the minimum. And so it happened that in Alma-Ata, for example, only 20 per cent of newly built housing was being distributed to people on waiting lists.

Did people complain? They did. The papers, however timidly, wrote about the violations of justice. The Kamcha satirical newsreel filmed caustic pictures. But it was released only in one copy. The cotton wool proved to be really bulletproof.

Kulakov Family's Joy [subhead]

The No 16 trolleybus passes along the Abai Street. Driver Mikhail Kulakov drives along it many times a day. But he never even dreamed that he'd get an apartment in the main street of the republic's capital. However, he has been thinking about an apartment almost constantly of late. The Kulakovs had been on the waiting list for 13 years. And Larisa and Mikhail have three children.

"We thought we'd have to wait for an apartment for at least another three years," says Mikhail, "but all of a sudden I was summoned to the executive committee of our district Soviet and handed an order for a three-room flat. I couldn't believe my own eyes at first."

It is so hard to believe in order and in justice when they have been absent for such a long time! [paragraph continues]

The law said one thing, but people saw that there were quite different ways to get housing. While Kulakov was driving his trolley-bus for years and patiently waited his turn at the executive committe a woman with a daughter arrived in Alma-Ata from Taldy-Kurgan Region. She wasn't a great specialist but she got a three-room apartment in several days after her arrival. At the time her chances of getting housing were as good as they could be -- she was Bekezhanov's sister.

She was, together with some others, evicted from her flat and it was given to the Kulakov family. Because now the apartments are distributed first of all to large families, invalids and war veterans.

But even this particular example shows how easy it had been to violate justice and how hard it is to restore it now. One of the ministries suddenly remembered that it was its own house (and how forgetful it was when the sister of a VIP was given the apartment!) and tried to give the flat to a deputy minister. But this time the District Soviet Executive Committee insisted on its own decision.

And what will happen next? At present the procurators of the republic have issued 140 lawsuits on cancelling illegally given orders for housing. Some 1,700 people, put on the housing waiting list illegally, have been taken off the lists in Alma-Ata alone. What is this -- planned work or a collective realization of what is going on by the lawyers. The laws in Kazakhstan had been violated too easily, in order for people to believe in their strength in a month or two. But when people rush so industriously to restore the law there's always a danger that they may become overzealous. Because even those who had been evicted according to the laws still have to live somewhere. It is easy to report that 26 lawsuits have been issued in Alma-Ata on eviction, but the authorities do not dare to evict 15 of them because there is no other housing for them.

And to be frank, it is impossible to solve the housing problem in a city with a population of one million through redistribution of 20-30 apartments issued illegally in the past.

"The Housing-91 programme has been elaborated and is already being implemented in Kazakhstan," Yuriy Meshcheryakov, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, told us. "Its main aim is to provide apartments by the end of the five-year plan to all those who were on the waiting list as of January 1987. We realize quite well how hard the task is. We'll have to double the housing construction rate."

By the end of the five-year plan -- but hundreds of people, who are on the waiting lists and are dissatisfied with how flats are distributed, are sending complaints to all levels of authority already now. Why, then, should the dialogue be reduced only to complaints and answers to them, the people in Alma-Ata thought, and gathered one Sunday at the republican Trade Union Council all those who are complaining about housing distribution now. Also present were representatives of the Council of Ministers, of the Communist Party Central Committee, the republic's supreme Soviet, the Alma-Ata City Soviet and ministers. The people spoke of their grudges and were given answers right there in the hall crowded to capacity. The discussion did not involve steam-letting because it is impossible to make empty promises in front of people and, on the other hand, the legitimacy of the demands becomes clear at once in such an audience.

As it was said at the January Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, the consistent implementation of social justice is one of the foundations of reconstruction. [paragraph continues]

It is impossible to achieve social justice by issuing directives. Openness and democratization are the best guarantees against a repetition of errors.

Just as the guard at the turnpike on the road warned us, we were stopped at the office of the hunting farm.

"Journalists?" the director asked sternly. "Has your visit been agreed upon?"

We started phoning the chief of the Economic Administration of the Council of Ministers and the business manager.

"They say that Karachingil will be handed over to rank-and-file hunters, so why can't we visit it?" we asked.

"But we don't know what your intentions are," we were answered sternly. "It isn't yet the time to come here so simply."

We looked at the director's face and realized that if we didn't want him to get it in the neck we better go away.

And the lighthearted pheasants were still strutting about.

PRAVDA NOTES STATE ACCEPTANCE PROBLEMS IN LATVIA

PM221456 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 87 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Yu. Ruben, chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers, under the rubric "The Economy: Lessons of Quality. The Prestige of the Factory Brand Name"]

[Excerpt] Riga -- [passage omitted] The state acceptance system seriously alarmed many production units. In some places the former prosperity was shaken. Not all enterprises were ready to work up to the standard of the new demands. Delays in modernization, obsolete technology, poor discipline, and an orientation toward old models had their effect. The RAF minibus plant, the freightcar plant, and the REZ association did worse work than in the previous year.

Checks and tests on minibuses at the RAF plant showed that the quality of the vehicles deteriorates every year. The reason is gross violations of technological discipline and defects in design and technical documentation. The sector specialists believe that a considerable proportion of the blame rests with the sector's key institute -- the Central Scientific Research Vehicle and Motor Institute. A fundamentally new model is needed. This applies first and foremost to the technical standard and quality of subassemblies.

Last year, in all, 17 types of industrial output were stripped of the five-pointed Star of Honor because of the more stringent demands in preparing for the transition for state acceptance. More than 100 types of articles were refused applications for the "N" mark. Let me be self-critical -- a large share of the blame for this, for the lack of due exactingness toward economic leaders, rests with the Council of Ministers and the republic Gosplan. [passage omitted]

WRITERS' UNION PLENUM OPENS 27 APRIL

Mikhaylov Previews Plenum

LD270718 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] A plenum of the board of the USSR Union of Writers will begin its work in Moscow today. Aleksandr Alekseyevich Mikhkaylov, secretary of the board of the creative union, talks about this great event in the country's sociopolitical and cultural life.

[Begin Mikhkaylov recording] The issue which has been put to the plenum is formulated as follows: the present time and literature. This is the first plenum since the eighth writers' congress held at the end of June and beginning of July. Ostensibly, a large enough amount of time, and, at the same time, a small one. Large enough for organizational restructuring within the Union -- new councils have been set up on literary genres; these councils have begun their work, have held plenums.

These plenums have been action-packed, held in an atmosphere of sharp polemics, with discussion of the urgent issues concerning the development of modern literature. There has been little time to feel, so to speak, the fruits, the real fruits of literary restructuring, that is, the appearance of sufficiently vivid, original, talented and sharp works, which would already take into account the efforts of all the people and the efforts of the party on restructuring, on the revolutionary transformation of our life. However, it must be said -- and this is recognized by our public -- that literature has made its contribution toward creating the atmosphere for the present restructuring. There have been works which have stirred our thoughts, stirred our morals, stirred people's consciences, and which, generally speaking, have talked about the fact that one can't go on living like this, that it is necessary to infuse a new, revolutionary spirit into the substance of our life.

Here, of course, one needs to cite the names of writers such Abramov, Astafyev, Rasputin, Belov, Bondarev, Chingiz Atylmatov, but this relates to individual phenomena in literature, and not to literature as a whole. Of course, at the plenum there will be a great, serious and sharp discussion, a sharp debate on the further development of literature which would correspond to the spirit of our life today, the spirit which characterizes these revolutionary transformations which are taking place at the moment under the guidance of the party and with the support of all our people.

PRAVDA Outlines Agenda

PM291739 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Literature and the Present Day"]

[Text] Multinational Soviet literature is created in 78 languages. A USSR Writers' Union Board plenum was devoted to its tasks, which are linked with the artistic reflection and interpretation of the revolutionary transformations of social life. The plenum opened in the Central House of Writers in Moscow 27 April.

The report "Literature and the Present Day" delivered by V.V. Karpov, first secretary of the board, analyzed the creative union's work since the 27th CPSU Congress and the eighth USSR Writers' Congress.

The plenum devoted great attention to creative young people, work with whom must be raised to a qualitatively new level.

An important task for the Writers' Union is to boost the social authority and practical efficacy of literary and artistic criticism.

Questions of improving the activity of literary and artistic journals and restructuring book publishing were considered.

Yu.P. Voronov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Department, is taking part in the plenum's work.

Karpov Delivers Report

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[Report delivered by V.V. Karpov, first secretary of the USSR Writers' Union Board, at 27 April opening session of USSR Writers' Union Board plenum at A.A. Fadeyev Central House of Literature: "Literature and the Present Day"]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

Social and political life in our country is packed with events of tremendous significance, and naturally the activity of the USSR Writers' Union and all its components and the labor of every literary person should today be seen in the light of these events.

The time has come to analyze our work since the 27th CPSU Congress, and also since the Eighth USSR Writers' Union Congress, and to see what has been said about literature, what has been criticized, what shortcomings have been noted and what has been and is being done about it, and how writers -- all together and each individually -- have become involved in the restructuring process.

It has been nearly 10 months since our writers' congress, and it must be said that the interval until this present meeting has been prolonged. The CPSU Central Committee January Plenum made public a wide range of ideas and problems, and some time was needed to look searchingly, again and again, at our activity yesterday and today and to try to get a glimpse of tomorrow.

After the January plenum M.S. Gorbachev met with leaders of the mass information and propaganda media; important questions of the development of literature were also discussed. In February there was the international forum "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity," in which our writers took part. M.S. Gorbachev's speech at that forum also relates directly to the work of writers. In the same month the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers adopted a resolution "On Improving the Conditions of the Activity of Creative Unions."

Everyone who has come to this auditorium today remembers our eighth congress, which was full of frankness, interesting proposals, plans, and hopes. Every one of us is asking himself: To what extent have our plans begun to be fulfilled, how are our hopes turning out? In answer to this question, I think I must say this: We have no reason either for despondency, or for complacency.

Some work has been done to fulfill the congress decisions; it is significant work and must not be belittled. Of course, the first thing one would like to do would be to enumerate the splendid new books which have appeared since the congress. After all, books, Comrades, are our main product, they are the reason the Writers' Union exists and works, they are the reason we meet at our sessions, congresses, and plenums. But good books are not written that quickly. The USSR Writers' Union Board can take no credit for the creation of the remarkable works which we will be mentioning today. All the same, there is some credit for the fact that these works have reached the reader and become common property. Among us there are chief editors of artistic literary and sociopolitical journals who have commenced their work since the congress, and others who have been doing that work for a long time, but who have taken to heart the tasks set for literature by the times themselves and by the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum, the 27th CPSU Congress, and our own 8th Writers' Congress. It is thanks to their highly developed literary taste, their ability to assess genuine artistic values at their true worth, it is thanks to their determination and willingness to assume responsibility that many of our journals are being transformed before our very eyes. People value the efforts of the workers in the literary factory -- subscriptions are rising.

This does not apply to every publication. I will be frank, lethargy persists in many journals. It seems that their pages remain unaffected by the winds of the times. Writers' organizations in krays and oblasts, republics, and large cities must no longer tolerate the fact that their journals are not restructuring themselves, are not standing up to the competition. This is, if you like, a matter of honor for a writers' organization: Nobody will come in from outside and do your job for you, Comrades.

The eighth congress instructed the Writers' Union to step up its activity in the struggle for peace. I do not think there is any need to explain to anyone here the significance and urgency of this activity. I will not enumerate all the measures, as we used to call them, and actions, as we call them today, the Writers' Union has taken during that period for the sake of peace. Activity in this area has been extensive and has taken enormous efforts, but I do not think we would have had any right to begrudge those efforts. After all, the goal of our international activity is one of vital importance for all the people of the earth. This goal was well formulated at the international forum "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity."

The eighth congress oriented the board toward a sharp improvement in the leadership of the activity of republican, kray, and oblast writers' organizations. Some work has been done in this area too, and we will speak of it in more detail later. But so far there is nothing particularly to boast about. The leaders of republican organizations are here in the auditorium, and they are the best people to tell us how much and in what way the board of the "big" union has helped them -- or not helped them. This is a very important question, a fundamental one for the Writers' Union, and we naturally will not restrict the comrades in their desire to tell the whole truth, however, unpleasant it is. There must be a frank discussion. Anticipating criticism, I can say that the board (I do not think I am making a mistake by speaking on behalf of all of us) believes that the leadership of writers' organizations in the localities needs to be considerably improved.

I must also mention another instruction from the congress which, most unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to fulfill. I refer to something, that was plain to see even then, and has become even clearer since the congress. To be true helpers to the party in its imposing tasks, our union simply must be monolithic and united. After all, we have a common, lofty goal. [paragraph continues]

As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed at the 20th Komsomol Congress, "we have no political opponents, no opposition to the restructuring. We do have difficulties of the initial stage of these revolutionary changes. These difficulties affect us all to some extent. After all, we are all, let us say, children of our time."

Unfortunately, there are people among us who place personal ambitions above the common cause, who value their own self-esteem more than the literature they are called to serve. It is unpleasant to speak of it, but we have not yet eradicated factionalism, hostility, and rumor-mongering. The USSR Writers' Union Board has yet to organize affairs in such a way that there is no room for these ignominious phenomena among us. Joint efforts are needed here, Comrades. This was spoken of -- this need to pool our efforts and struggle more resolutely against negative phenomena in our organization -- at the eighth congress. It is our common duty to do what the congress called on us to do.

Nor can we say we are satisfied with the work of our secretariat. There is a lack of efficiency, flexibility, purposefulness. Many interesting questions which we planned to discuss and resolve remain undiscussed to this day. It goes without saying that it is the secretariat, and I myself above all as first secretary, who are to blame for the things left undone and unfulfilled that have already been mentioned or will be mentioned in this report.

The importance attached to the work of writers in our country is indicated by the recent party and government resolution aimed at improving the conditions of the activity of the creative unions, including our own. This means strengthening the material and technical base, improving publishing affairs, questions of work with young authors, the propaganda of literature, and so forth. We are very grateful for this concern. I think I am expressing the common opinion when I say that Soviet writers are very well aware of their duty, The union board is called upon to do everything possible to ensure that everyone can realize his talent to the full. When we speak of restructuring, first and foremost we should have in mind how to organize the work of our board, the work of the secretariat, in such a way that every literary person has the opportunity to work to the full. That is the purpose of the activity of the Writers' Union Board.

"Restructuring" and "acceleration" are currently two very widespread words and concepts. They also have a direct bearing on literature, but we must not take a simplistic view of them in the creative process. What does restructuring mean -- moving your pen more quickly? Thinking more quickly? Fewer rosy tints, more negative elements? That would be the same situation, but with a minus sign.

Probably the correct thing to do is to understand and implement the restructuring in the sphere of literature in the same way as in other spheres, namely -- in the organization of production, that is, our day-to-day creative work, in the leadership of writers' organizations and publishing affairs, in the training of young recruits, in the implementation of party cadre policy, and so forth.

Particular attention was devoted to this at the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. Unbiased assesements were made of certain phenomena in literary life and the account was presented to the critics. How are we reacting to this, what are we doing to change the atmosphere of literary life for the better?

After the Eighth Writers' Congress, taking into account the delegates' speeches and criticisms, the new leadership of the USSR Writers' Union decided to concentrate the main efforts on creative questions. The structure of the secretariat changed. Now working secretaries head the genre councils: All their attention is devoted to creative affairs.

We very much hope these creative associations will act as generators, so to speak, of the entire literary process. The councils' first plenums since the writers' congress have been held. It must be said that many of them were marked by an active, urgent, and principled approach and by concrete criticism. The highest demands are being made on literature, on the periodical publications and publishing houses of the Writers' Union, on the union itself and on its leadership organs. Discussions took place in a businesslike manner and on a good creative level about the problems of the artistic process in the councils on the Lithuanian, Latvian, Georgian, Kirghiz, Tajik, Uzbek, Azerbaijani, and Belorussian literatures. But the activeness of the councils on the Armenian, Estonian, and Moldavian literatures is, frankly, low.

I want to share something with you. Our secretariat works harmoniously, but many questions are resolved as a result of blunt debates. Openness and democracy are entering the life of the leadership organs of the USSR Writers' Union and the republican writers' unions not without pain, not without friction, but irreversibly.

One session of our board secretariat discussed the activity of the Kazakh Writers' Union and pointed to shortcomings in the international education of the working people in that multinational republic. These shortcomings became particularly clear after the well known events in Alma-Ata.

We believe periodical reports by republican writers' unions about their activity at sessions of the USSR Writers' Union Board Secretariat, as well as visits by secretaries to the republics to deliver reports to the writers about the activity of the all-union secretariat, visits to boards' plenums and other measures are very important forms of concrete leadership which stimulates the positive processes.

The plenums held during this period by the republican writers' union boards have been devoted to the discussion of creative questions and have also shown increased activeness on the part of writers and their profound commitment to creating an exacting and principled atmosphere in the evaluation of specific literary phenomena. In certain republican and local writers' organizations the consequences of factionalism, obsequiousness in criticism, and the suppression of unbiased criticism are being resolutely eradicated.

The joint initiative of the USSR Writers' Union essays and current affairs council, headed by the experienced current affairs writer Yu. Chernichenko, and the Turkmen Writers' Union, which have begun work on topical and important material on the ecology of the Caspian, merits support and development. It makes sense to extend this work through the efforts of other writers' unions and bring in the problems of the Aral Sea and the problems of land reclamation in Central Asia. Here our combat detachement, the current affairs writers, have plenty of cards up their sleeves, so to speak. Our current affairs writing has much fairly producltive experience of resolving major problems. I do not want to repeat what has often been published and said from major platforms, but I cannot avoid repeating this: The time when our writers acted as real citizens, as impassioned current affairs writers, defending the normal flow of the rivers and the purity of the lakes -- that time taught all of us a great deal and inspired us to new deeds for the sake of the triumph of truth and justice. [paragraph continues]

Our current affairs writers now have plenty of causes. There are just as many, and they are just as imposing and difficult, as all the causes in which our people are engaged. These words may perhaps become worn through frequent use, but they lose none of their meaning: "Heed the demands of life." But there is no denying that even for the current affairs writers, there are not only achievements. Many of their articles lack teeth, many authors do not know how to dig down to the bottom of the problem and grasp the essence of the matter. Many current affairs articles seem to be written with just one aim: to collect as many negative facts as possible, but what for, what to do with these facts, how to struggle, where to find a way out of the situation -- it seems that the author knows none of this, and does not want to know it. That is the position of a casual observer. There are also still plenty of generalizations. These are passed off as current affairs writing.

We are proud of the articles in the newspapers by many of our writers. But, frankly successful articles are much more rare than they could or should be. We seriously discuss the civic stance of writers' we call on each other to become actively involved, yet the newspapers cannot get any articles out of us for months on end. A writer, if he is a real writer, if he has a strong civic sense, has no right not to write on current affairs.

I will cite just one example of real current affairs work by a writer -- G. Borovik's current affairs work on television. That is real writer's work, where thought, erudition, a knowledge of the subject, and lively feeling are merged. The influence of Borovik's work is great. When a writer appears on "Vremya" with his essays, when an innovative program like "Has-beens" ["Byvshiye"] or the movie "The Man from Fifth Avenue" ["Chelovek s Pyatoy Avenyu"] is screened, it is no exaggreration to say that the whole country is glued to the television. Many more examples could be cited, but let us return to the work of the republican organizations.

Major, nonstereotyped initiatives have been put forward and implemented in the republican writers' organizations since the eighth all-union congress. For instance, the Ukrainian Writers' Union soberly and severely analyzed the work of its oblast organizations in various forms and for various audiences; the Belorussian Writers' Union had a discussion on the subject of "The Land and the Work"; in the Lithuanian Writers' Union there was an intensive professional discussion of the novella genre; the Georgian Writers' Union held an international conference on "The Fate of World Civilization in the Socialist Literatures." Interesting initiatives are currently being worked out by other republican and local writers' organizations.

However, it must be said that not all writers' unions work with the proper commitment. I would like to indicate certain shortcomings.

Do not the comrades from the Armenian Writers' Union think that their organizations's activity tends to smack of festivals and jubilees, to the detriment of businesslike analysis and energetic practical work?

Has not the Azerbaijani Writers' Union taken rather a long time to "get moving" after the eighth congress, although there have also been highly critical items about its work in the central press? It is important to note that these items were written by Azerbaijani writers.....

In the Tajik Writers' Union and the Moldavian Writers' Union, do not good intentions and plans still too often remain on paper?

Let me stress yet again: In making all these complaints about the republican organizations, I have no intention of absolving the USSR Writers' Union leadership of responsibility for defects in their work. If something is not working out well locally, it is clear we are not doing our job properly here in Moscow. We do not know how to intervene in good time, give advice and guidance, and resolve conflicts in good time. We do not have a sufficiently complete and accurate grasp of the situation; we do not really know what things are like locally. The board secretaries do not visit the localities themselves often enough, their visits are too short, and are composed of official meetings and talks in the leadership offices. We must speedily put an end to this practice. You would think that had long been clear to everyone. But we have not yet managed to restructure ourselves: The inertia is great, habits are strong, day-to-day concerns jam up the works, as the saying goes. I would very much like our plenum today to be a turning point in the organization's life in this respect. I would very much like the board secretaries, without delay, the very day after the plenum, to have a clear schedule of visits to the organizations until the end of the year, and for these visits to be sensibly planned.

We often speak with justified pride of the fact that Soviet literature is written in 78 languages. But how many of those who create the talented artistic works of our multinational Soviet literature do we secretaries and board members know personally? And not only the secretaries, I think others too should admit we do not read each other enough.

This should not be concealed -- it must be rectified!

Now, Comrades, I would like to say, and even to plead, it is time for us to move on from the emotional, critical mood characteristic of 1986 to the more fruitful practical realization of the problems of the creative process and the creation of the artistic works which the people and party expect from us. Today we are not, of course, standing aside from the restructuring, but we are not in the mainstream either.

An "emotional, critical mood" -- that is a good thing, and it engendered intellectual dynamism, one form of the new motive power in the restructuring. That is a very strong tool. But not everyone, writers included, has grasped openness and democracy in their healthy, creative meaning. It was for good reason that M.S. Gorbachev repeated that we must learn to live in conditions of democracy. We must learn, we must! In particular, we must cultivate a feeling for criticism.

In his speech at the recent Komsomol congress M.S. Gorbachev said that certain press organs are using their pages in an unseemly cause -- the settling of scores. Unfortunately these hard words also have to be said about our flagship, the Moscow organization, which numbers in its ranks many remarkable names who enjoy countrywide fame, the organization which it is customary to emulate, which is supposed to set the tone in everything that is brightest, most humane, most up-to-date. But certain writers are calling down suspicion on the good name of that organization!... Instead of really working and writing, they seem to be stuck on the same old questions. These questions are only related to creative work indirectly, if at all. At meetings of the Moscow Writers' Organization there has repeatedly been a demand that it be granted republican status -- on questions of admission and reelection terms. But these are rule-related questions and will be discussed by the commision which has been set up to prepare a new USSR Writers' Union statute. Another demand is also made: that a single party organization be set up for Moscow's communist writers, wherever they work -- in publishing houses, journals, or the apparatus of the RSFSR and USSR Writers' Union. No arguments which could be described as weighty and substantiated are being put forward in favor of this organizational restructuring.

Yet because of this disagreement, which we see as entirely reasonable, the leadership of the RSFSR and USSR Writers' Union is accused by certain communist writers from the Moscow organization of conservatism and failure to understand the restructuring.

It seems to us that those who demand this at the Moscow Writers' Organization should think first about the moral climate and channel all their efforts into resolving the tasks set by the party. It is time, high time go get on with the job, that is, to get on with literature!

Permit me to draw your attention to the fact that certain critics sometimes very casually and thoughtlessly dismiss our recent literary past. The secretariat believes that in no circumstances should we renounce what our literature has created over recent decades. True, there have been mediocre, time-serving, artistically feeble books. But there have also been works, there have been writers, there has been literature that has honestly and courageously told people the truth about our life and morally and spiritually prepared society for the changes now taking place. We can be proud of that. It must not be forgotten, and who among us forgets it, that only very recently we had living and working among us such writers as M. Sholokhov, A. Tvardovskiy, V. Katayev, N. Tikhonov, V. Kozhevnikov, B. Polevoy, V. Kochetov, F. Abramov, V. Shukshin, Yu. Trifonov, M. Shaginyan, Ya. Smelyakov, K. Vorobyev, V. Fedorov, A. Vampilov.... Surely the works of many people who are living now, even people who are sitting in this auditorium, whose names we pronounce with pride -- surely many of their works are remarkable phenomena in society's spiritual life, have become part of our common national property, and have enriched our world today?! I think we have something to be proud of: We have many books by prose writers, poets, and current affairs writers who continue the traditions of classical literature.

We renounce another heritage: those specimens -- they exist in every genre -- which were confined to half-truths, were written to suit the convenience of the time, and were extolled out of proportion to their "merits." Let us deal more strictly with ourselves, with greater understanding of the criticism we hear of ourselves -- only thus will we enter into the general atmosphere of increased exactingness. The need to develop democracy, criticism, and openness is obvious to us all. But it is also obvious that many of us are simply not ready either for democracy, or for criticism, or for openness. There are no longer any inviolable names, but for many people that is unbearably painful. People sometimes react to criticism of themselves with panic, even tragically. Such comrades very easily slip into broad generalizations. A specific work is criticized, and its author thinks his entire creative career is being attacked and the very foundations of our society are being undermined.

We should be more strict, but also more attentive and well disposed toward everything that merits approval and support. You cannot lump everything together. Unfortunately, one can also see a kind of excess of zeal in the evaluation of what was written before the 27th party congress: If the hero is positive and his deeds are noble, today some people are prepared, for this alone, to number such a book among the rose-tinted, run-of-the-mill works and discount it. It is necessary to study each case in detail. The author's civic stance is very important in the creation of a work of art. But in evaluating works, too, the person criticizing a work must adopt specific civic positions. From the viewpoint of dissidents, very many books by Soviet writers are not highly artistic literature. But no other view could be expected from our ideological opponents. The trouble is that some of our critics, in talking about the achievements and troubles of literary affairs, forget that it is necessary to be guided by the criteria of ideological commitment, commitment to the people and party, and that it is necessary to live by the Soviet people's concerns and by deeds aimed at eradicating errors and shortcomings in building socialism.

Such critics should be advised to think independently, working on the basis of the specific facts of our life, and not merely to echo the renegades who see everything that happens in our country only in a bad light. They have even contrived to declare today's transformations, which so refresh and transform our society, to be a routine propaganda campaign.

Before moving on to specific recent literary phenomena, I would like to say a few words about the publications that have given rise to animated debates not only in the literary milieu. I have in mind the publication of works by writers who formerly, for various reasons, were not printed in our country. I will not enumerate them, you all know what and who I am talking about. The view exists that there is some kind of contest going on in this process: Journals strive to be the first to stun the reader, first with V. Nabokov's prose, then with N. Gumilev's poetry, and so forth. Here, I think it is necessary to give an accurate scientific commentary on the works, it is necessary to observe moderation and not crowd out our current literature with such publications, not push talented works about today and about our urgent problems into the background. The fact that works created by our predecessors are returning to our literature and that works that had been in people's desks for a long time are being published is in itself quite natural, and in the spirit of the times.

But this does not mean we should change our view of the literary process over the last 70 years and make a new list of its representatives. No, and no again! Soviet literature has become established and become part of 20th century culture, it was created by all the peoples of the USSR, and new generations are raised on it. This is our pride and glory.

Soviet literature glories in the names of M. Gorkiy, V. Mayakovskiy, S. Yesenin, M. Sholokhov, A. Tolstoy, A. Tvardovskiy, L. Leonov, P. Tychina, M. Rylskiy, Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, G. Tabidze, Ye. Charents, Dzhafar Dzhabarly, Bafur Gulyam, M. Auezov, A. Upit, Salomeya Neris, B. Kerbabayev, G. Ibragimov, S. Ayni, M Tursun-Zade, and other classical writers of multinational Soviet literature.

Now let us look briefly, but, with your help, more closely at what our literature has given us recently.

The most striking trend in contemporary literary development is the critical-analytical trend. While evaluating in different ways the prose works that have appeared in recent months, the critics note with one voice their social thrust, civic passion, and contemporary relevance. Here fears are not infrequently expressed that the contemporary relevance and scope of he material drawn from life could lead and are already leading to shortcomings in the artistic assimilation of that material. This is an entirely reasonable fear, but nonetheless it seems to me that there is no reason to see any long-term threat to quality. The contemporary relevance of current prose is explained by the natural desire to interpret as quickly as possible the greatest possible number of facts about reality from the viewpoint of today's demands, from the viewpoint of the restructuring of human consciousness.

We have repeatedly spoken of monotonous collections of names in reports and literary reviews, but in preparing this report I was obliged to proceed on the basis of the names and works of those writers who have aroused the widest interest among readers and provoke not only much discussion, but also a kind of flareup of social activeness. Lively interest and polemical heat has marked the discussions in the press and in verbal debates about Yu. Bondarev's "The Game" ["Igra"], V. Astafyev's "The Sad Detective Story" ["Pechalnyy Detektiv"], Ch. Aytmatov's "The Scaffold" ["Plakha"], V. Rasputin's "Fire" ["Pozhar"], V. Belov's "All Ahead" ["Vse Vperedi"], and V. Bykov's "The Quarry" ["Karyer"].

The very nature of the debates -- searching, uncompromising -- indicates that these are no ordinary works of current literature. Readers greeted with interest Oles Gonchar's novel "Cathedral" ["Sobor"] and Mustay Karim's story "The Pardon" ["Pomilovaniye"].

The library of political novels is swelling. But in my view the list of new works in this genre is not fully covered by the names of G. Borovik, V. Korotich, A. Adamovich, and A. Chakiovskiy. You see, I have listed A. Chakovskiy's "Nuremberg Ghosts" ["Nyrurnbergskiye Prizraki"] is a political novel, but I think we should talk about a novel, with no supplementary definitions. This interesting, multifaceted novel is broader than the framework that defines the "political" genre!

After "The Mimic" ["Imitator"], S. Yesin conducts, or rather continues, a discussion of narrow-mindedness that has tasted power, of time-serving, calculated behavior, and careerism, in his new novel "The Temporizer" ["Vremenitel"].

V. Makanin, who is fond of painting social portraits, creates interesting human types in two of his stories. The contemporary state of society and its problems are the subject of the novels "Witch Grass" ["Odolen-trava"] by S. Shurtakov, "While I Live, I Hope" ["Poka Zhivu -- Nadeyus"] by M. Ganina, "Captivity of Power..." ["I Vlasti Plen..."] by O. Poptsov, and A. Prokhanov's ardent, impassioned current affairs writing.

The thirties and forties, years that were hard, difficult, and full of cruel tests for our country, were tackled by A. Bek in the novel "The New Appointment" ["Novoye Naznacheniye"], D. Granin in the novella "The Buffalo" ["Zubr"], A. Rybakov n the novel "Children of the Arbat" ["Deti Arbata"], V. Dudintsev in the novel "White Coats" ["Belyye Odezhdy"], V. Amlinsky in the novella "Every Hour Will Be Justified..." ["Opravdan Budet Kazhdyy Chas..."], Yu. Trifonov in the unfinished novel "The Disappearance" ["Ischeznoveniye"], A. Pristavkin in the novella "The Golden Cloud Stayed the Night" ["Nochevala Tuchka Zolotaya"], S. Antonov in the novella "Vaska," and A. Nikolskaya in the novella "Pass It On!" ["Pereday Dalshe!"] V. Likhonosov published in the journal DON the novel "Unwritten Memoirs (Our Little Paris)" ["Nenapisannyye Vospominaniya (Nash Malenkiy Parizh)"], which also went through many years of suffering before publication. In my view the journal BAYKAL acted correctly when, in its first issue, it began to publish V. Nikonov's novel "Railroad" ["Doroga"], which had spent years passing from one journal to another in the capital. This is a truthful, honest novel about the builders of the Baykal-Amur Railroad. Yu. Samedoglu's novel "Day of Punishment" ["Den Kazni"] is also noteworthy. These works center on personalities who are out of the ordinary: a world famous scientist, a professional revolutionary, a major stateman, a recognized writer... The hero's strength of character is tested by very difficult circumstances. The writers display a high standard of artistic skill. Their works teach us, through the experience of the recent past, not only to rectify errors, but also to prevent them in the present and future.

I must mention Yu. Davydov's work "The Straw Lodge" ["Solomennaya Storozhka"] ("Two Bundles of Letters" ["Dve Svyazki Pisem"], which was nominated for a USSR State Prize. The novel is an example not only of high artistic merit, but also of a clear and precise historical stance, which is where some of our historical novelists have come unstuck more than once. Original historical novels have been created by V. Lichutin -- "The Wanderers" ["Skitaltsy"] -- and the younger writer Yu. Sergeyev -- "Backbone" ["Stanovoy Khrebet"]. In Lichutin's book the action unfolds in a northern maritime district, and in Sergeyev's in the Transbaykal.

Both writers paint a faithful, multifaceted picture of vivid and complex characters and strong passions -- the people's life, developing powerfully. Both of them, perhaps Yu. Sergeyev particularly, should be given only one piece of advice: Beware of being too literary, be sure to live through the abundant documentary material yourself and filter it through yourself.

In recent issues of the journals there are works which continue the study of the typological features of the times on the basis of the example of individual structures, what one might call closed structures, of human activity. In the recent past we have read V. Korotich's "Oil" ["Neft"], A. Pletnev's "The Pit" ["Shakhta"], I. Grekova's "The Faculty" ["Kafedra"], A. Kron's "Insomnia" ["Bessonnitsa"], and G. Gorbovskiy's "The Station" ["Vokzal"]. One could also add I. Shtemler's novel "The Train" ["Poyezd"] -- the author is true to the path formerly chosen, and reveals with documentary precision and acuity the painful aspects of problems in particular spheres of working life (we remember his descriptions of the life of cab drivers and trade workers).

Now I would like to speak, if only in brief, about certain specific phenomena in the literatures of the USSR's people. Naturally, in this case I will be drawing on opinions expressed in the periodical press, and also on analytical surveys by specialists. I will mention certain novels and novellas which are remarkable in terms of their acute vitality and serious artistic efforts -- Yu. Shcherbak's "Causes and Effects" ["Prichiny i Sledstviya"] (Ukraine), V. Kozko's "Chronicle of an Orphanage Garden" ["Khronika Detdomovskogo Sada"] (Belorussia), A. Yakubov's "The White Swans' Sorrow" ["Skorb Belykh Lebedey"] (Uzbekistan), T. Kaipbergenov's "Apple of the Eye" ["Zenitsa Oka"] (Karakalpakia), V. Lam's "Brothers" ["Bratya"] (Latvia), and P. Dirgel's "The Echoing Grove" ["Shumyashchaya Pushcha"] (Lithuania). Heated reactions and debates were aroused by G. Pandzhikidze's novel "The Spiral" ["Spiral"] and I. Guseynov's novel "The Ideal" ["Ideal"]. We cannot say that all these works were born of the restructuring, but they undoubtedly "breathe" its air.

Hence, too, a certain increase in the vitality of those forms of work by republican writers which deal directly with current affairs and the emergence of the "problem essay," especially in the newspapers UZBEKISTON ADABIYETI VA SANATI, Belorussia's LITERATURA I MASTATSTVA, Moldavia's LITERATURE SHI ARTA, and Armenia's GRAKAN TERT.

But of course, the habit has not yet been eradicated of "quietly" printing current affairs items and essays which read badly and are written in the old way (no improvements can be detected, for instance, in the journals ALA-TOO and SOVET EDEBIYATY, LITERATURNAYA ARMENIYA and LITERATURNAYA GRUZIYA, DONBASS, and, alas, a journal with a mighty creative potential, POLYMYA...).

To conclude this brief roundup, mention should again be made of the peculiar nature of current journal prose as the prose of a transitional period. I repeat, it is hardly appropriate to be afraid of the abundance of the critical, negative principle, to be afraid this first wave will become a torrent. It looks more like a preventive measure in literature, whose mission is to fight for society's moral health.

Of course, we all await a turn toward the creation of major characters, the artistic representation of those people who bear on their shoulders, as M.S. Gorbachev said, the burden of our time, who pave the way for restructuring and renewal, who are the revolutionaries, the pioneers and organizers of the new.

Incidentally, criticism is still too weak in orienting writers in this direction, although the themes of "nostalgia for the heroic" can be found here and there in critical literature.

In a word, it is too soon to hold the parade -- work must be done.

Nobody delivering a report has ever yet managed to please everyone in compiling lists of names. Do not complain, Comrades, if I have failed to mention someone....

Allow me to break with the traditional way of organizing reports, when young people are mentioned only briefly, at the very end, in the form of an expression of regret that at present there are no brilliant talents, but we hope, and so forth; allow me to speak of them now.

In the conditions of renewal of all spheres of our society the problem of young forces and their involvement as a new source of energy in the restructuring process comes to the fore. Our literary milieu is no exception. An influx of young forces is, in my view, a concrete measure in the implementation of both restructuring and acceleration in literary life.

Let me speak at once of those who have already made their entry into literature with notable books that are arousing interest in both readers and critics. I will begin with the novels "A Name for a Son ["Imya dlya Syna"] by M. Shchukin, "the Swarm" ["Roy"] by S. Alekseyev, and "The Cry That Lost Its Way" ["Zabludivshiysya Krik"] by R. Seysenbayev. They bring to the forefront the problem of the continuity of generations, the moral and cultural heritage, and responsibility to the times, the people, and your own conscience. M. Shchukin's novel about life in a rural district is interesting and important first and foremost because it addresses itself in a way that is new to our prose, and moreover in the shape of a young representative, to the profound, full-blooded, truthful image of a communist, not a great one in terms of the scale of his activity, but an individual strong in spirit and marked by firm convictions and moral purity.

S. Alekseyev and R. Seysenbayev, in their novels, are also moved by complex questions of the relationship between generations and are also not inclined to soften or smooth over anything. Both works divide the central characters into good and bad not on the basis of age, and in both works the older generations take their experience and wisdom to the young. People learn from kindness, not from grumbling.

Characteristically, in these three works there is an attempt to measure today's deeds against history and epic. ZNAMYA No 2 publishes G. Golovin's novella "Anna Petrovna." We often speak of the positive hero: What is he like, does he only appear in the course of social and labor processes? Here in Golovin's novella we find a fine, pure, intelligent contemporary of ours. Golovin has a unique tone, rare in our day by virtue of its optimistic, life-asserting enthusiasm.

In the journal URAL, No 11, there are stories by the young writer A. Dudoladov, who has a rare humorous gift; his laughter is intelligent, not mischievous.

T. Tolstaya. Her name, so to speak, puts an obligation on her. Meaningful stories, pure language, I think it is no exaggeration to say that her pen holds promise.

The journal TALLIN publishes stories by B. Kryachko, who live in Tallinn. The author attracts the reader's sympathies not only through wit, but also through kindness, love of dear ones, romanticism, and, I would say, a powerful simplicity.

The journal SEVER, No 9, published V. Maslov's documentary novella "Still Alive..." ["Eshche Zhivyye..."] about the old men and women of the northern Mezen region. The author's manner is reminiscent of F. Abramov, he is not a denouncer, but a defender, and moreover he suggests ways of resolving problems.

The serious, good quality stories of O. Sysoyev in VOLGA, No 1, and T. Nabatnikova's novel "Every Hunter" ["Kazhdyy Okhotnik"] in the first three issues of SIBIRSKIYE OGNI are worthy of attention. Nabatnikova lives in the Urals, but her pen is by no means provincial and her ideas are strong and interesting.

G. Medvedev has at last published one of his novellas in URAL, No 2; it is called "Nuclear Burn" ["Yadernyy Zagar"]. I say "at last" because I read manuscripts from this talented prose writer on NOVYY MIR. Medvedev knows very well what he is writing about and holds firmly to sound civic positions.

Yu. Polyakov's novella "Working on the Mistakes" ["Rabota nad Oshibkami"] is very interesting. The author not only describes the situation in secondary education on the eve of the reform, but also boldly expresses his own well argued evaluation of what is happening, and that is a great merit for a young writer.

The stepping up of the principle of involvement in current affairs in young writers' prose work is also marked. An all-union seminar of young current affairs writers held in Minsk in January of this year helped to identify several new talents. V. Shavyrin from Tula, author of the collection of current affairs, regional studies essays "The Muravskiy Highway" ["Muravskiy Shlyakh"], has succeeded in depicting in his own way a village of the mid-fifties, in the novella "Goat-thorn" ["Koza-Dereza"]

From the best works of young writers one can judge the direction of social and moral quests. Their attempts to interpret the main problems of the people's life, to reach broad social generalizations, and to study the inner world of the true hero of our day merit support. Many still need help to overcome concern with petty topics, derivativeness, and lack of artistic individuality.

We must not make allowances for young people because of their age, the criteria for evaluating the works of young and experienced writers must be equally high. It is another matter that the assistance given by editors working on the manuscripts of writers who are just starting out should be more substantial and, of course, highly skilled.

The USSR Writers' Union council for work with young writers has now begun to operate with its new composition. In the last 6 months it has held a number of events devoted to urgent questions of the development of young Soviet literature.

Without in any way denying the fundamental importance of the problem of artistic skill in the sphere of professional work with young writers, we must not lose sight of questions of the social formation of the young artist's personality and his moral and material self-awareness within our creative organization.

Unfortunately, many examples could be cited which reaffirm the indifferent attitude of local writers' organizations to the influx of fresh forces into literature. An original writer works at a plant in Tolyatti -- V. Kudryashov. His novellas and stores are printed in the central press, but the Kuybyshev Writers' Organization pays no attention to the young writer. The prose writer L. Shorokhov from Tashkent, the author of mature works, is now approaching the age of 40, yet his professional future has still not been decided. A wide readership has long been familiar with the work of the poets Yu. Grechko, A. Pshenichnyy, and M. Kudimova, who have already left the category of young writers, but the writers' organizations do not notice (or try not to notice) these gifted authors. To join a creative union, the young prose writer V. Kurnosenko had to leave his native Novosibirsk.

Concern for young creative cadres which is proclaimed in words and not backed up by concrete action is a relapse into the disease which our writers' union must fight against with all its might.

It is time to stop grumbling like old men -- there are no brillant names, no talents have emerged!

I recently met with writers who are customarily described as young -- between 30 and 40. Well, for me they are indeed young. The auditorium was full. Of courese, we could not invite everyone who deserved it: When there are too many people, there can be no free communication, which is; what I wanted. You may have seen fragments of this meeting on television -- when the conversation was taking place over tea. The meeting lasted several hours. I must say the time was not wasted for me. I would like to hope that my interlocutors do not regret coming, either. Of course, opinions differ. Naturally, we talked about many things, about urgent things, things that worry us. I did not always agree with my guests and they did not always agree with me. It was nice that the young people are educated, intelligent, and sincere, talk with great interest of the affairs of the literary workshop, and feel confident in that context, although not too cozy. I would like to see more good will toward each other, toward colleagues working in literature; More breadth of views; More concern for what to write; and how than concern for how and where to publish what they have written.

Meetings like this are becoming traditional in our Writers' Union. We want and ought to meet with different people -- representatives of all creative avenues. I have already mentioned many names, but I will name some more. I think this is a correct, up-to-date approach: first and foremost, concern for the new recruits, for the future.

I want to mention a few more names. O. Khlebnikov. Admitted to the Writers' Union at the age of 22. Author of four books of poetry, published in MOLODAYA GVARDIYA, SOVREMMENNIK, SOVETSKIY PISATEL, and the Udmurtiya Publishing House. Candidate of physical and mathematical sciences. His lyric poetry is characterized by heightened interest in the spiritual world of contemporary man. Writes much about his native city of Izhevsk (now Ustinov). Now lives in Moscow.

M. Kudimova lives in Tambov. She is a poet with a fine lyric feeling. Author of the book "Enumerating the Causes" ["Perechen Prichin"], published by the Molodaya Gvardiya Publishing House 5 years ago (exactly the same time it took for this book to make its way to publication). They say that in a few days her new book will come out at the Sovremennik Publishing House. Recently she has been teaching at a teacher training institute.

A. Astafyev. Lives in Moscow. The book of poems "Moonwort" ["Klyuch-trava"] came out this year; an artistic designer by profession, he went to the Baykal-Amur Railroad with the first Komsomol detachment, and worked there for several years. Graduated as a correspondence student from the Literature Institute (A. Zhigulin's seminar), and writes about the motherland and love for man the creator.

R. Fedichev. First book of stories, "The Eighth Moorage" ["Vosmoy Prichal"], came out in 1986; served abroad, worked as a teacher and school director. Graduated from the Literature Institute by correspondence. Lives in Kaluga.

Yu. Kors. Poet, first book "The Disk: ["Disk"] published in 1986 -- problems of peace and war, concern for the future of the planet, of mankind. Specialist in video systems, works at the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Space Research as a leading designer.

P. Palamarchuk. Book "Derzhavin Alone" ["Yedin Derzhavin"] came out in 1986. Is interested in the problem of the participation of our literary history in present-day processes, works at the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the State and Law, candidate of juridical sciences.

A. Malgin, sometimes called a disturber of the peace. Born Sevastopol. Graduated from Moscow State University journalism faculty, studied at Warsaw University for 3 years. Author of many critical articles. Sometimes he gets carried away, as they say, sometimes his judgments are unjust, or rather, not everyone can agree with his judgments, but nature does not very often give us a born critic. We are seeing an instance of this. One piece of advice for him -- not to confine himself to group interests.

V. Pyetsukh, A. Buylov, A. Parshchikov, Yu. Nikitin, P. Krasnov, A. Brezhnev, N. Isayev... I could cite many dozens more names.

Dear comrades! I am telling you this in order to criticize first and foremost myself and the Writers' Union leadership -- we live alongside young people, but deal with them very officiously or in haste, yet when you have a talk with them and open your heart, you really find out who is who.

I strongly advise you to look around you where you live and work, do not begrudge the time, do not begrudge spiritual warmth, I assure you, you will find close at hand the fine young forces that are so necessary in today's restructuring. Collective, organizational measures are good and necessary. But literary creativity is intricate work, and you have to work individually with young people. At one time my contemporaries at the Literature Institute Yu. Bondarev, V. Tendryakov, G. Baklanov, V. Soloukhin, M. Ganina, N. Ilina, and many others passed through the painstaking hands of that fine craftsman K.G. Paustovskiy. Look out for one or two talented beginners, help them, encourage them, share your experience. Remember your gray hairs -- it is high time we thought about who will be entrusted with the future of Soviet literature in the 21st century. I think some of us will hold out until the end of the 20th century. All those years young people should be alongside us (or, conversely, we should be alongside them). And then, in the 21st century, if we support them now and launch them into flight, they will remember and say kind words about our concern. We do have worthy heirs, people with a firm, established civic stance, true patriots who love their people, they will not let down our literature or leave the motherland to its fate!

We must speak about poetry, but this part of the report lays no claim to any generalizations: Poetry is such an elevated and delicate substation that probably only poets themselves or critics should talk about it. I will speak as a reader. We talk and argue a good deal about the decline in interest in poetry, and sometimes people even try to explain this in terms of the problems of the book trade. I am not inclined to agree -- interest in true, real poetry has never faded! While the critical battles on the theme of why we have no good poems were raging at full pitch, fine poems were being written by A. Mezhirov and B. Slutskiy, M. Dudin and Yu. Levitanskiy, N. Starshinov and G. Pozhenyan, Ye. Isayev and D. Samoylov, Vl. Sokolov and A. Zhigulin, and many more. While the debates about why the stores cannot sell collections of poetry were at their peak, it was impossible to buy a collection of Yevg. Yevtushenko, A. Voznesenskiy, R. Rozhdestvenskiy, and others. Fine books came out, and promptly disappeared from the store counters, by B. Akhmadulina, Yu. Drunina, A. Kushner, Ye. Vinokurov, O. Fokina. I have mentioned only a few, only those who write in Russian, but our multinational poetry is very rich in talent.

All the same, in the last few years poetry has gone through a kind of lull, losing ground to prose and current affairs writing...

What did it lack? A tuning fork, perhaps? That unique, incomparable voice that seems not to allow others to speak falsely, not to allow them to fall out of step with the times, that calls them in its wake.

I think A. Tvardovskiy's long poem ["By Right of Memory" ("Po Pravu Pamyati")] could serve as just such a tuning fork. Published in the journals ZNAMYA and NOVYY MIR, it has an amazingly contemporary ring by its very essence, by its spirit -- it contains the highest sense of civic responsibility, conscience, honor, the conviction of a communist. A classical writer -- one of our Soviet classics -- has come down to us today and addressed us directly:

Then let us still be as we were,
Whatever storm may break,
The kind of men
Who look men
Straight in the eyes,
With eyes unveiled.

Every day there are more poems. We are publishing undeservedly forgotten poets and leafing through the exercise books that preserve what was not accepted in our country in recent times. But our poets are also writing excellent new poems. There is plenty of scope -- for the distinguished and for the young. I believe, I sense the approach of fine poems. May that good saying come true: "Take a long time over the harnessing, but travel far and fast."

In a brief survey of drama it should be recalled that even before the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum the plays of I. Dvoretskiy, A. Salynskiy, A. Gelman, and others had expressed the sociopolitical reality that has become the leading thrust of life in the last 2 years. Their works were called "industrial" drama, although the writers raised social, not technical, questions, and the dramatists tried to express the impossibility of separating "public" and "private" life and to show how social and personal morality are inseparably linked and how destructive it is for a person to seek to separate the different aspects in defining his social stance.

Many of these plays did not have easy access to the stage. It was necessary to "break through" in order to produce and then bring to the audience works not only by A. Vampilov and the so-called "new wave" dramatists, but also by writers who are apparently well recognized and venerable.

It must not be forgotten that the Moscow Arts Theater had to fight for nearly 2 years for the right to show audiences M. Shatrov's "Thus We Will Win!" ["Tak Pobedim!"], a show for which its creators and the dramatist were subsequently awarded the USSR State Prize. Everyone remembers the hostility that greeted A. Gelman's show "Alone With Everyone" ["Nayedine so Vsemi"] at the Moscow Arts Theater. There is hardly anyone in this auditorium who does not know what happened to V. Rozov's "The Sucking Pig" ["Kabanchik"].

Today it is important to note that in conditions that were not at all favorable to a critical attitude to reality, dramatists found a way to say what has become generally widespread only in the last 2 years.

They have managed to say much in this past season too. A. Misharin's "Silver Wedding" ["Serebryanaya Svadba"], M. Shatrov's "Dictatorship of Conscience" ["Diktatura Sovesti"], which began its march through the theaters on the boards of the Moscow Lenin Komsomol Theater, R. Solntsev's "Article..." ["Statya..."] at the Central Academic Theater of the Soviet Army, A. Buravskiy's "Tell Me..." ["Govori..."], A. Kudrayevtsev's "Ivan," "The Last Crane" ["Posledniy Zhuravl"] by A. Zhuk and A. Dudarev, M. Garayev's "Of Course, I'm Only a Little Man" ["Ya, Konechno, Chelovek Malenkiy"], L. Zorin's "The Quotation" ["Tsitata"], "Concert for Two Violins Accompanied by Eastern Instruments" ["Kontsert dlya Dvukh Skripok v Soprovozhdenii Vostochnykh Instrumentov"] by R. Sturua and A. Chichinadze, "The Spa" ["Kurort"] by U. Umarbekov, and certain other plays proved relevant to the processes of renewal that have begun in our country.

It is with good reason leading theaters turned to stage adaptions of prose works. Prose works by V. Dudintsev, A. Rybakov, V. Atafyev, Ch. Aytmatov, and S. Zalygin are already being transferred to the stage.

Better plays are also being prepared for the footlights: M. Shatrov's "The Brest Place" ["Brestsky Mir"], M. Roshchin's "Mother-of-pearl Zinaida" ["Perlamutrovaya Zinaida"], and certain others -- but note that these plays were written long ago, and at best some amendments have been made. They reflect not today's complex, contradictory reality, but other times.

What the theater, audiences and readers lack today is plays about the processes taking place in the present-day reality, in today's world.

I hope children's writers will not be offended because I am talking about children's literature last; it is not important what place we allocate to it in the report; what matters is the successes, specific phenomena that enable us to judge the movement of literature.

It is a task of the children's branch of literature to prepare for their entrance into life a new generation that has had no need for restructuring, that should be raised in a new way, in the spirit of today's revolutionary changes.

Soviet literature for children and young people has plenty to be proud of, it has remarkable traditions and is embellished by widely known names: S. Mikhalkov, A. Aleksin, Z. Voskresenskaya, V. Zheleznikov, A. Likhanov, S. Alekseyev, and many others.

But it must be admitted that all the same, it is for good reason children's writers complain about the lack of serious criticism studying in depth the problems of the development of literature for children and young people and analyzing the processes of its development.

We must safeguard children's literature and take care to ensure an influx of fresh forces into its ranks. And, most important, not degrade it through lack of attention.

I do not know if we should go on and on appealing to criticism to pay keen attention to children's and young people's literature. Perhaps children's writers should themselves take on the role of critics, severe and unbiased critics, become their own judges and assessors, take on the role of "state acceptance"? I realize this is not a solution to the question, or else it is only half a solution. All the same, it is time to think about the state of literature for children and young people and its current problems in broad terms, within the panorama of the general literary process, and the critics must do this. It is also time for the journal DETSKAYA LITERATURA to do some restructuring. It seems to me that the journal is not closely enough associated with the contemporary literary process, and that its attention is confined to a small range of concrete phenomena. It should not be the libraries' organ, but the working organ of the council for children's and young people's literature. It is this journal that should fill the gaps in book reviewing and in reflecting the contemporary literary process.

In recent times a number of interesting books for children and young people have appeared, but they have not always been noted by the critics. I would like to mention books like "The Flood" ["Navodneniye"] by G. Mashkin from Irkutsk, A. Aleksin's novella "Signallers and Buglers" ["Signalshchiki i Gornistyy"], Yu. Yakovlev's novella about Samantha Smith and his patriotic fairytale for little ones, "The Seven Toy Soldiers" ["Semero Soldatikov"], and V. Medvedev's "Barankin's Fantasies" ["Fantazii Barankina"]. Books by G. Vieru, I. Ziyedonis, V. Palchinskayt, Yu. Kushak, B. Zakhoder, Ya. Akim, V. Berestov....

This list could be continued, and the books mentioned demand serious individual discussion. But we also are entitled to say that children's writers have recently produced too few works that have come into the reading circle as phenomena of a really high order and become favorite companions for the growing generation.

The task of restructuring facing our critics has proved very difficult, demanding time, effort, uncovering hidden reserves, and the firmly renouncing stereotypes. In late 1986 and early 1987 signs of new approaches began to emerge. The journal ZNAMYA, as we remember, over a period of not years, but decades, when it comes to criticism, has preferred to provide overviews, avoided debates, and published few critical reviews. All at once, in the first issue for 1987, there were two articles under the rubric "Journal Prose in 1986": "Trial by Truth" by N. Ivanova and "Review of the Path" by I. Zolotusskiy. Both critics focus attention on the most searching, contentious works that reflected the spirit of the times and evoked well deserved interest in readers: Ch. Aytmatov's "The Scaffold," V. Astafyev's "The Sad Detective Story," V. Bykov's "The Quarry," and two works that have only just reached the reader and proved highly topical, A. Platonov's "Juvenile Sea" ["Yuvenilnoye More"] and A. Bek's "The New Appointment." Both critics also discuss in detail that difficult work, V. Belov's novel "All Ahead," not only evaluating it, but also analyzing it from the viewpoint of the social processes and contradictions reflected in the novel. The critics' opinions diverge in many respects, which is only natural: A free exchange of opinions and evaluations takes place and the picture of the literary process, presented from two viewpoints, takes on depth. It seems to me that ZNAMYA is setting a very good example of well argued criticism. Of course, it is not ideal, there are shortcomings in each of these articles, but all the same, their good, calm tone is notable.

In criticism, the spirit of the time is the problem-centered approach.

Today nobody can any longer find any appeal in the dominance of monographs or the dominance of portrait-painting, which were so characteristic of the years when a "service" function was thrust upon criticism and a preoccupation with jubilees flourished in the pages of the journals. This is not to say that articles of the portrait type are not necessary at all: Say someone has written an outstanding book everyone is talking about, the reader feels a keen interest in the personality and creative work of this writer -- a portrait article must be offered, it is apposite and arises from life itself, not from just another jubilee.

How many passions we have spent on combating the obsession with jubilees! Yet it continues cleverly to build nests for itself under first one rubric, then another.

After the recent discussion at the RSFSR Writers' Union Board Secretariat, LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA is trying hard to change its face. These efforts can only be welcomed. But, opening the new rubric "Reading One Another," our poets and prose writers started once again -- now under cover of a new rubric -- to celebrate the traditional anniversaries of the heart.

There is no denying that it is necessary to defend and uphold whatever you as a critic value, but this must be done convincingly, honestly, sincerely, open-heartedly. And in supporting your view, you must not, of course, rely on emotions alone -- that is by no means the surest support. Practice shows that truths can best be proved in disputes, in clashes with a different viewpoint. Debates, real debates are needed. Not nominal debates where any two items are published under the debate rubric -- just to give the semblance of a debate. Unfortunately, the most recent issues of the journals offer many examples of precisely that kind of debate. Two writers send in reviews of one and the same collection, they do not want to turn anyone down, so they say, let's publish two opinions.

One of the most widely read newspapers is LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. This is indicated by an increase of 300,000 in the number of subscribers this year alone. Many interesting items of a learned nature, dealing with real problems, international items struggling for peace and humanism, are published.

While giving due credit for all this, it seems to me that the editorial collegium would be well advised to keep the newspaper's name -- LITERATURNAYA -- constantly in view. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA has correspondents in many major countries of the world. That is a good thing! But we would like to read more about literary affairs in our country. The correspondents usually go in pursuit of other topics far removed from literature. And therefore I will express this wish: While covering foreign events, give more space in your pages, somehow find in yourselves the opportunity, the desire, to discover, popularize, and propagandize the literature of the USSR's peoples. Dozens of undiscovered names, histories, books, and literary and creative problems await you in the republics and oblasts.

The theoretical base of criticism and the methodology of critical analysis are still a serious shortcoming. The attention of certain critics still does not extend to the fundamentals of Marxist-Leninist aesthetics: socialist realism, a party approach, orientation toward the people. And here we expect much from our scientists, in particular the Institute of World Literature. However, in the recently published collective work by that institute on the extremely important subject of "Marxist-Leninist Criteria of Value in Literature" ["Marksistsko-Leninskiye Kriterii Tsennosti v Literature"] there was not a single page devoted to the contemporary literary process. With all due respect to the work of the scientific theorists, one would like their activity to develop in the mainstream of the stormy events of the social and spiritual life of our time, and not to stand aside.

Everyone -- critics, philologists and scholars, and writers -- must learn to work in the conditions of democracy. This is no easy matter, but the aim remains unchanged -- the restructuring of the entire work style on genuinely democratic principles and increased exactingness toward yourself and toward literature as a whole.

Dear Comrades! At the Eighth Writers' Congress there was talk of the need for a radical restructuring and improvement of book publishing, which is hampered by a number of both objective and subjective circumstances. I will not dwell on the details, which are well known to you all. I will only say shortcomings in the publishing houses' practice are being only slowly eradicated. There are still cases of "unverified instructions," when official irresponsibility on the part of some people "above" is supplemented by thoughtless or, more accurately, consciously obliging zeal on the part of others, "below." There is still not enough of the fresh air of openness, not enough democracy in the resolution of the often tricky questions of book publishing, and moreover the publishing houses' editorial collectives nearly always function purely formally.

Certain writers still, in the old way, go to the working secretaries with a request to "push through" a manuscript or add another volume to the "selection." We have renounced this practice, working secretaries do not personally decide the question of publication. In accordance with the orientation toward broad democratization, the secretariat has decided to rely on the collective intelligence in publishing affairs.

A council on publishing matters has been appointed, headed by Yu. Gribov; it is a consultative council which, having carefully studied all the recommendations, demands, and wishes of the Eighth Writers' Congress and bearing in mind that the main thing in our work is the book and only the book, has set about tackling questions of improving book publishing.

The council on publishing matters receives writers every day, seeking to resolve urgent questions promptly and in a principled way. To this end the council maintains close, permanent links both with the publishing houses themselves and with the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade.

In conjunction with the journal LITERATURNOYE OBOZRENIYE, the council studies the work of local and republican publishing houses, as well as the experience of local book distribution. To this end writers are sent out to various regions of the country, and their impressions of their trips and their studies of book publishing will be published in LITERATURNOYE OBOZRENIYE.

Writers make many justified complaints about the activity of our publishing houses, where many years of red tape and a low standard of work are being only slowly eradicated. It is no accident a commission has now been set up at the Sovetskiy Pisatel Publishing House to carry out certification of editorial workers. The results of the commission's activity and its conclusions will be examined at the USSR Writers' Union.

The council has put to the publishing houses the question of publishing small and limited (trial) editions of books by young poets, prose writers, and dramatists, which would help both to determine the artistic importance of their work and to discover the readers' demand for their work.

The proposal has repeatedly been put forward that small editions be published at authors' own expense, to help them to reach the readers and critics. Should we perhaps try this too, by way of an experiment?

The publication of selected works, and also collected works, should probably be incorporated in the plans not on the basis of authors' requests, but on the basis of recognition from readers and critics, after broad public discussion.

We do not think all these measures will fundamentally change the situation in book publishing in the immediate future, but, with public support, we will seek to accelerate and improve the process of selection of manuscripts at the publishing houses.

Some enterprising groups of Moscow writers, and some on the periphery too, intend to set up cooperative publishing houses. The State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade has set up a special group for assistance to such publishing houses. But some of the initiators think all they have to do is put forward the ideas, which should then be carried out by the Moscow organization, the RSFSR Writers' Union, and the USSR Writers' Union; they should be given premises, given paper, given a printing plant, and so forth. What kind of initiative is that? If you start something, you should finish it.

Comrades!

The subject of today's discussion -- "Literature and the Present Day" -- enables us to discuss our creative and organizational problems, and simply our problems of life. In my report I have concentrated on events and actions since the 27th party congress, which is not a long time -- 14 months -- but a time packed with very important events. Of course, I have not covered everything, and we have not met to listen to one person's report, you will doubtless enlarge, add, criticize, advise, what we must do, how we should carry out more productively and effectively the tasks set for Soviet literature -- by the people, by the party, by history.

The secretariat would like your recommendations to concern creative questions above all: how to boost, how to activate our intellectuals potential, how to involve the enormous creative forces of our writers' union still more energetically in the cause of revolutionary transformations.

The main obstacles I perceive in the practical implementation of these major strategic tasks are procrastination -- both individual writers and some of our organizations are taking a long time to get moving and are slow to join the new stream of democratic transformations; and factionalism -- it must be resolutely rebuffed. How can this be done? Let us think about it together. But think and act we must! Restructuring and factionalism are incompatible. Everyone who uses words to express himself must be aware of that. For what purpose are words spoken or written -- for the sake of satisfying a tender self-esteem, or in the interests of the cause and the truth? That is the question every one of us constantly has to answer. Tremendous tasks face our society. [paragraph continues]

To help the people to cope with these tasks, we must restructure our own ranks to form a united front, rather than all pulling in different directions like the swan, the crayfish, and the pike in the story. Until we have put an end to that, we have no right to announce that we have restructured.

M.S. Gorbachev has repeatedly and quite correctly said that we do not yet know how to live under democracy, that we have to learn. So let us learn! The discussion which will take place at our plenum should, in my view, be directed toward this. Honesty, truthfulness, concern for our common affairs, first and foremost creative affairs, the consolidation of writers' forces, the strengthening of our union, so that we can work harmoniously, with pleasure, open-heartedly, so that we deal with each other as one deals with those who are called by the fine, expressive word comrade!

Plenum Closes 28 Apr

PM041907 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "USSR Writers Union Board Plenum"]

[Text] The participants in a USSR Writers Union Board plenum declared their loyalty to the principles of the party-minded and popular spirit of literature and to its artistic method -- socialist realism, which requires innovative application to resolving the tasks of restructuring. The plenum completed its work in Moscow 28 April.

The emissaries of all the union republics' writers organizations spent 2 days discussing with ardent interest the raising of the ideological and professional standard of artistic creativity and the strengthening of its ties with the country's socioeconomic development.

It was emphasized that on the eve of the Great October's 70th anniversary our literature is mobilizing and uniting forces to reveal the organic link between the achivements of the socialist revolution and the present social transformations in our country. Not shutting its eyes to the contradictions, difficulties, and mistakes, the multinational detachment of artists of the word will direct efforts toward showing the victorious path traveled by the party and the people over the years of Soviet power. It is the task of writers to struggle for the further development of democracy and to strengthen people's faith in communist ideals and their pride in their motherland.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL LABOR LAW

LD010908 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1440 GMT 30 Apr 87

["The Law is Coming Into Force" program; roundtable discussion presented by correspondent Lev Barshevskiy, with Arseniy Borisovich Matveyev, deputy head of a combined department on labor and social problems of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems; Viktor Aleksandrovich Tur, deputy head of the State Revenues Department of the USSR Ministry of Finance; Igor Fedorovich Shkurov, head of the main directorate for the development of rural services and the organization of consumer services of the RSFSR Ministry of Consumer services; and Vladimir Ivanovich (Smorodinskiy), deputy head of the department of legislation in state construction in the USSR Ministry of Justice]

[Excerpts] [Barshevskiy] The mail being received by our editorial office shows that there are still unresolved issues, much that is unclear and many difficulties connected with the application of the law on individual labor activity; about how it will be applied in practice and what needs to be done to see that this document is successfully implemented in our life. This is what I would like us to discuss today. [passage omitted]

[Barshevskiy] Viktor Aleksandrovich, you represent the financial department. Now during the discussion that took place on the eve of the law being adopted, in letters we are receiving, and in articles in the press there have been a great number of reproaches against the financial bodies. To what extent, in your view, are these reproaches justified?

[Tur] I shall try to be objective. Indeed the press, which has in recent months carried a fair amount of interesting information about how preparations were proceeding throughout the country for the entry of the law into force, in a number of cases was quite justified in criticizing some of our financial bodies which were continuing to maintain that their word should be decisive and final on whether it is necessary or unnecessary or possible or impossible for a person to be engaged in this or that work. Through the Ministry of Finance we have given fairly precise and clear directions to financial bodies on what their role is in this respect and to the effect that the financial system should in every way facilitate the development of individual labor activity and that the financial system should remove all unfounded restrictions in their approach to a consideration of these problems. Our inspections and our research show that the restructuring of the financial system in this regard has proceeded in the right direction.

[Barshevskiy] How simple, in general now, is the procedure for obtaining all the necessary documents for engaging in individual labor activity?

[Tur] I should like to clarify what you mean by the word now. Do you mean 30 April or do you mean...

[Barshevskiy -- interrupting] 4 May

[Tur] 4 May. Okay, then. The decision of the Executive Committee is received by the financial bodies, and on the basis of this decision the financial bodies fill out registration certificates or licenses and present them to the individuals. In terms of time it might take less than 30 minutes -- 10 or 15 minutes, perhaps -- for each of the persons coming to the financial bodies to be leaving with the appropriate document entitling them to engage in activity.

[Barshevskiy] Will there not be any lines?

[Tur] I do not think so.

[Barshevskiy] So prior to this the person gets permission from a commission of the Executive Committee?

[Tur] No, the person receives permission from the Executive Committee of a soviet of people's deputies or an arts council, depending on the activity in which he will be engaged. This permission is not given by hand to th person but is sent to the rayon or town financial departments. The person will only be handed a single document, either a registration certificate or a license. This is the document which he will keep and is to be presented to any inspection bodies and gives him the right to engage in this activity. [passage omitted]

[Matveyev] I think in general that the introduction of this law on individual labor activity will make one reconsider some fundamental questions. For me, for instance, it is quite obvious — well, I shall not speak about the current 5-year plan period because that is absolutely clear, but for the foreseeable future individual labor will be exceptionally useful for society both from the viewpoint of using the country's labor potential and from the viewpoint of satisfying the demands of the population.

[Barshevskiy] I entirely agree with you, Arseniy Borisovich, and it seems to me that one needs to break down certain old psychological stereotyped attitudes toward the people that are engaged in this work.

[Matveyev] Not only toward the people that are engaged in this work, but also the stereotyped attitudes in the minds of the people themselves who engage in this work, because for many it has until now been something shameful. for instance, for persons with higher education to engage in some kind of odd jobs or consumer services or even in their direct speciality outside public-sector production was considered something shameful.

[Barshevskiy] Yes, shameful. You are quite right.

[Matveyev] It is obvious that where something is useful for society it should be clear to everyone that there is nothing shameful in this work or in this labor.

[Shkurov] We spoke of competition, but in this regard it must be competition in the good sense of the word. Naturally, if a person engaging in this individual work and, say, being a repairer of television-sets works in a high-quality way and better than the people work in the television workshops, this will bring about some restructuring in the organization of work in those workshops in the selection of cadres, or in their training somehow, and so on. [passage omitted]

[Barshevskiy] Viktor Aleksandrovich was intending to speak to us about tax policy and about taxation, because many people are not clear at present. They are therefore adopting a somewhat wait and see attitude, thinking that they will wait and see and watch what becomes of this, how much taxes will be collected and whether altogether it is worthwhile. Does this general viewpoint exist?

[Tur] Yes, you are, of course, correct. A week ago a decree was issued by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which makes substantial changes to tax legislation with regard to the taxation of the incomes of persons engaged in individual labor activity. First of all there is a substantial reduction in the extent of taxation. All those engaged in any kind of individual labor activity in the sphere of handicrafts and trades, consumer services, the sociocultural sphere, and folk and artistic fields will be paying taxes in accordance with a minimum scale. What then is the scale? It is citizen's income does not exceed R3,000 or R250 a month, then the same rates of taxation will be applied as with all manual workers and office employees in the national economy. With incomes exceeding R3,000 a year and not exceeding R6,000 the rates of taxation will rise much more smoothly than they do at present. The increased rates of taxation will be something in the order of 20-50 percent. Only when the income exceeds R6,000 a year, that is R500 a month, will the state tax at the rate of 65 percent the amount in excess of R6,000.

The state retains the right to monitor the incomes of people. It follows from this that the staff of financial bodies are entitled to examine incomes and also the places where goods are sold and the places where articles are produced. This is binding and inescapable. One should bear this in mind, since the view that some people have that engaging in individual labor activity can take place without monitoring is an absolutely wrong viewpoint to my mind, because the constitution says that the state regulates involvement in individual labor activity.

Well, that is part of the issue. That is the position a regards taxation, but there does exist another form of relationship -- what are termed a license and payment for a license. Well, I would say that this is a transformed type of taxation. Why then does it exist? There are certain forms of individual labor activity where monitoring is difficult and impossible, say, where it is linked with journeys. People will engage in conveying passengers in their own transport or in some other similar forms of activity. There might even for instance be such forms of activity, which I give by way of an example, as, say, the breeding of aquarium fish. This is a very widespread activity. Well, just you try counting these fish in order to determine the income of the person. It is impossible. A system has been introduced therefore whereby for certain types of activity the councils of ministers of union republics have been directed a approve a list of such types of activity for which licenses, and not registration certificates, will be issued, and these same councils of ministers will annually approve the the amounts to be paid for the license. This work has now been completed throughout the country. All the union republics have adopted the appropriate acts.

I can give a few examples of what these license will amount to. I have here a few examples. Take, for instance, the conveyance of passengers in one's own road transport. In the Russian Federation this will cost R560 annually. In Kazakhstan the cost will be R450. In the Kirghiz Republic it will range from R180 to R290. In Belorussia it will R530. You can see that differences exist. What is the explanation? It is to be explained by the fact that the extent of possible income, which was taken into consideration in the study of this problem, varies in the different areas of our country.

[Matveyev] I should like to supplement what has been said. Viktor Aleksandrovich gave the cost of a license in the Russian Federation. However, Russia is the biggest republic and contains the most varied conditions. Therefore in determining the cost of license the Council of Ministers nevertheless gave oblispolkoms and krayispolkoms the right to reduce or to increase this cost of a license by 30 percent.

[Tur] Yes, indeed. But this is not just in the Russian Federation. Decisions have also been made in many union republics.

[Shkurov] That is right. Differentiations are being made.

[Tur] Yes, indeed. This differentiation is being made depending on local conditions, existing circumstances, and so on.

[Barshevskiy] Well, now, I am aware that in our conversation we have been able to touch upon only a proportion of the questions and problems that will inevitably arise with the further development of individual labor activity. Probably there will be a requirement for an improvement in the legislation in this area and the drawing up of supplementary documents which take into account both positive and negative experience. Nevertheless, I think that this matter is due to develop further and to bear fine fruit.

ECONOMIST LOPUKHOVA DISCUSSES JOINT VENTURES

AU021637 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 23 Apr 87 p 6

[Interview with Nataliya Lopukhova, scientific staff member of the International Institute for Economic Problems of the World Socialist System, by Bratislava PRAVDA Moscow editor Vladimir Jancura: "Life Does not Tolerate Formulas; Introducing Flexibility Into Economic Cooperation"]

[Excerpts] During his recent visit to Czechoslovakia Mikhail Gorbachev called for comprehensive support of the "new embryos of socialist cooperation." By this he meant the development of direct relations, and especially the establishment of joint enterprises and international associations. What is still standing in their way? What does Soviet science recommend for overcoming these obstacles and the problems that remain? And to what extent are these recommendations reflected in the decisions adopted by top party and state agencies?

These issues in particular are the topic of the talk between our permanent Moscow editor Vladimir Jancura and Nataliya Lopukhova, scientific staff member of the International Institute for Economic Problems of the World Socialist System.

[Jancura] Several important resolutions on the further improvement of external economic activity were issued in quick succession in the Soviet Union. With what is this connected?

[Lopukhova] The current restructuring of the economic mechanism and the orientation toward real economic accountability [khozraschet] in enterprises as well as their gradual transition to self-financing cannot avoid affecting the area of external economic relations. [passage omitted]

The September 1986 resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers contained principles that should be followed for better harmonizing the interests of the national economy and of individual enterprises in the process of external economic activity, and the January 1987 resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers specified approaches and courses to be followed in setting up and operating international economic organizations, such as joint enterprises and associations or scientific-technical workplaces, on Soviet territory.

[Jancura] Why is the Soviet Union devoting such great attention to these forms of cooperation in particular?

[Lopukhova] Because they correspond best to the present stage of socialist economic integration, in which the agenda of the day contains not only a broader development of various forms of economic relations, but also their more precise organizational delineation and the institutional mechanisms which correspond to this.

[Jancura] At the same time international economic organizations are coming to the fore. Does this perhaps mean that interstate organizations have totally exhausted their possibilities?

[Lopukhova] As you know, the economic mechanism is being restructured in many CEMA states. The main purpose is to enhance the role of the basic link in the national economy -- the enterprise, the association. Apart from this, scientific-production relations on the micro level will also determine the success or failure of the comprehensive program of scientific-technical progress.

As regards such interstate organizations as, for instance, INTERELEKTRO, INTERSPUTNIK, and so forth, I do not think at all that they are losing their breath or have outlived their time. On the contrary, under the new conditions they should become the organizational core of cooperation within the framework of the branch in question. [passage omitted] In other words, currently the main function of an interstate economic organization is to create a favorable climate for developing scientific-production cooperation between industrial enterprises, research institutes, and design agencies in the CEMA countries.

[Jancura] Let us now discuss joint enterprises. What new things can one expect from the Soviet side in this respect?

[Lopukhova] At present not a single organization of this kind is operating on the territory of the Soviet Union. However, such enterprises in which the USSR is participating can be found in other CEMA countries Proceeding also from the experience of these enterprises, the new Soviet measures envisage -- and this is most important -- a variety of solutions to many basic issues concerning the mechanism of activity of joint enterprises, associations, and other organizations of this kind. [passage omitted]

[Jancura] What are the guarantees that the interests of partners from other CEMA countries which become part of a joint enterprise on the territory of the Soviet Union, will be respected?

[Lopukhova] The main guarantees include joint management linked to the independence of these enterprises and associations in planning activities (the USSR's state agencies will not be determining the binding indexes of their plan). Other guarantees are the division of finished products according to agreed conditions (which are mutually advantageous) and the division of profit from economic activity (in proportion to the participants' shares or according to some other principle set down in the founding documents). Apart from that, the transfer of currency in rubles or in foreign currency, including convertible currencies, is guaranteed to foreign participants in joint enterprises on Soviet territory as their share of the profits. The founding documents also envisage that the foreign participant will be provided with all the data on the activity of the joint enterprise, on the state of its property, and on profits and losses.

On the liquidation of a joint enterprise, international association, and so forth, the foreign participant has the right to receive part of his investment in the form of money or commodities equal to the remaining value of his investment.

[Jancura] CSSR and USSR economic organizations still lack sufficient experince in establishing joint enterprises and associations. How could one help them in the preparatory stage of this obviously complicated process?

[Lopukhova] I would suggest the establishment of special consultative firms. [passage omitted] A consultative firm could make it easier for the national enterprises to select suitable partners and simultaneously take into consideration the economic and technological compatibility of the enterprises of various countries.

[Jancura] When, do you think, is it more advantageous to set up a joint enterprise, and when it is more advantageous to set up an international association?

[Lopukhova] If it is a matter of developing direct cooperative relations on the basis of intrabranch production specialization, then it is naturally more expedient to set up an international association. Its activities do not envisage a merging of the partners' property. But if the joint activity can be developed only by merging the participants' property, then it is necessary to create a joint enterprise.

But these forms must not be rigid. Economic life also cannot tolerate formulas. I have in mind something similar to the flexible production systems which are becoming increasingly typical for modern industry. In the area of external economic relations one must set up flexible organizational structures which are capable of being restructured as soon as this is demanded by the changing needs of the partners.

[Jancura] What will all this mean in practice?

[Lopukhova] Imagine an international association which originally was set up to organize direct cooperative relations between partners from two countries. Later, the cooperation framework ceases to satisfy the participants, or the realization of research or construction work demands the purchase of expensive equipment and constant contact between scientists, research workers, and designers. In this case it makes sense to set up a joint blueprint-design organization attached to the international association, which can operate on contributions from the participating partners or, if it is able to regularly hand over the results of its work to a third party, on the basis of economic accountability [khozraschet]. [passage omitted]

[Jancura] What would you like to say to conclude our talk?

[Lopukhova] Even during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the CSSR we could convince ourselves that the Soviet Union is undertaking weighty steps to establish favorable conditions for developing new forms of economic cooperation and integration. Now it is important to make use of the possibilities provided for the basic links of the economy in the area of external relations creatively, in specific practical usage, efficiently, and bearing in mind the interests of all partners.

MEDIA COVERS 30 APR-2 MAY AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD050208 [Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 30 April - 2 May. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

30 April

Belorussian farmers have sown grain on over one-half of the planned area; potatoes are also now being planted. A yield of at least 230 quintals per hectare is expected this year in Belorussia: this will meet demands not only in Belorussia but also help meet orders from Moscow, Leningrad, and the Transcaucasus. (0800)

Sugar beet growers from the areas adjacent to the Black Sea completed sowing on more than 500,000 hectares. They plan to increase sugar beet yields and sell 1.4 million tonnes to the state, which is considerably more than last year. (1300)

1 May

No fileworthy items monitored.

2 May

The farmers of Tashkent Oblast completed their sowing by 1 May; the main crop is cotton. There has been a great deal of trouble during the sowing period in the oblast with continuous showers and flooding that destroyed "a considerable portion of the sown area." Yet "people have managed to overcome nature." Today the shoots of the crops can be seen "on many fields."

"In Syrdaryinskaya Oblast, cotton seeds have only been sown on half of the allocated area. This sluggishness may result in the loss of thousands of tonnes at harvest time." (0000)

The sowing of early grain crops, barley, and peas has started in Belgorod Oblast. The crops will be sown on almost 300,000 hectars. The farmers are pressed for time because of a late spring, and they are therefore working in the fields round-the-clock. The oblast's machine operators are hoping to complete sowing in "3 to 4 days." (0000)

The machine operators of the Baltic republics, Belorussia, and Ukraine are carrying out sowing. Sowing has also started in the non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR, Central Chernozem Region and the areas around the Volga River. In the RSFSR, over 30 oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics have started sowing, including Bryansk, Orel, Tula, Kaluga, Kuybyshev, and Saratov Oblasts. In Sibera tractors are in the fields in Omsk and Kurgan Oblasts and Krasnoyarsk Kray. Moisture conservation is being carried out in the majority of fields in Altay. (0400)

In the southern areas of the European part of the country, the sowing of corn is taking place in the autonomous republics of North Caucasus region. Corn is being selectively planted in Kuban, and the corn growers of the Ukraine, Central Chernozem Region and Belorussia are getting ready for sowing. In the republics of Central Asia, shoots have appeared. (0400)

In the north Caucasus region, the sowing of sunflower is in full swing. This year the state is allocating a great deal of financial resources in order to stimulate the kolkhozes and sovkhozes which produce oil-rearing crops, and rural workers have responded to incentive measures at once. In the Ukraine, for example, the areas sown with rape, sunflower and soya beans are considerably expanded. (0400)

At the present time, the country's crop farmers are mounting a shockwork labor watch. The late spring is dictating the very highest pace of work. Thus in Belgorod Oblast on May Day, over 50,000 hectares were sown to early grain and fodder crops. (0800)

Over 300,000 hectares has been set aside for cotton in Tajikistan this year. At this time last year, sowing was virtually completed in the Republic. But today because of the rainy spring, the seeds of this main agricultural crop have so far been sown on only 280,000 hectares. Despite the difficulties, the republic's machine operators intend to complete sowing in 5-7 days. (0800)

The machine operators of Kizlyarskiy Rayon, Dagestan, have moved sowing machinery into the autonomous republic's main rice field, 2 weeks late because of the weather. (1950)

The sowing of grain crops has been completed by the machine operators of the non-Chernozem Zone of Kalinigrad Oblast. This year intensive technology is being used considerably more here with "progressive methods" spreading to "weak" and "mediocore" farms. As a result, all kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the oblast are making a profit. (2300)

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SPRING FIELD WORK DATA PUBLISHED

LD020448 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The USSR State Agro-Industrial committee has published data on spring field work in kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Despite the noticeably delayed spring, sowing of various spring crops has taken place on 11 percent of the total area set aside. One-third of the sugar beet area and two-thirds of the cotton area have been planted. Mass sowing work is being carried out in the oblasts of Ukraine, Moldavia, and Belorussia. The northern border of the sowing campaign has reached Kaluga, Bryansk, and Tula Oblasts.

OFFICIAL NOTES LABOR SHORTAGE IN AGRICULTURE

LD050849 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Soviet agriculture is experiencing labor shortages, a leading official of the agro-industrial complex, Aleksandr Lyevlev, told newsmen. An estimated 2 million jobs remain vacant at state farms and farm cooperatives, he said. This is a result of migration to the urban areas where living and labor conditions are better. To overcome this negative factor an extensive social program will be carried out in the countryside in the current 5-year period, Aleksandr Iyevlev said. This will include housing construction. The wages of agricultural workers have increased by 4 percent since the year began.

KALININGRAD OFFICERS DISCIPLINED AFTER PRAVDA EXPOSE

PM050855 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[Reply by Lieutenant General V. Grishin, commander of the Baltic Military District; and Lieutenant General V. Samoylenko, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Baltic Military District, under the rubric "PRAVDA Has Acted. What Has Been Done?": "'Stains On The Uniform'"]

[Text] The district military council and political directorate, having examined the above article published in PRAVDA on 21 March, accept that the item was correct and timely and agree with the assessment of the objective account of the facts and the analysis of the causes which accumulated over the years and gave rise to negative phenomena at the Kaliningrad Higher Engineering Troops Academy and made possible the degeneration of former leaders and communists Lieutenant General V.V. Zhigaylo, chief of the academy, and Major General V.D. Krutov, chief of the political department.

In accordance with a decision of the Military Council and the Political Directorate, the article's conclusions were discussed at a district party aktiv meeting. The attention of political organs and party organizations was drawn to the need to unswervingly implement the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) guidelines on an all-round improvement of ideological and moral education of communists, particularly leading personnel, and intensification of the struggle to preserve the honest and clean image of party members. The questions raised by PRAVDA were discussed at conferences of leading command and political personnel of the forces, educational establishments, and institutions of the district. There was condemnation everywhere of the improper conduct of V.V. Zhigaylo and V.D. Krutov, there was approval of the steps taken against them, and specific ways were outlined of further improving work with the district's officer cadres in restructuring conditions and of making greater demands on communists in terms of fulfillment of the CPSU Statutes and their party and service duty.

Immediate measures were adopted to establish order, improve the moral climate, and overcome the stagnation phenomena, mutual cover-ups, and servility in the academy collective and violations of the norms of party life in the work of the party organization. Extraordinary meetings of primary party organizations were held to assess the situation in the spirit of the times and determine practical steps to increase their activity and militancy.

All the communists who together with V.V. Zhigaylo violated the norms of conduct and deviated from the demands of communist morality are being checked by a party commission at the district political directorate. Party action has been taken against them. Colonel I.A. Chernykh, academy deputy chief for material and technical supply, and Lieutenant Colonel Yu. V. Serebryakov, deputy chief of the training department, have been expelled from the CPSU for aiding and abetting the academy chief to commit the offenses. Colonel N.G. Borodin, academy deputy chief for training and scientific work; Major V.A. Yuvchenko, senior assistant chief of the correspondence course department; and instructor Lieutenant Colonel V.F. Prokopenko were given severe party penalties and their CPSU membership cards were endorsed. Party punishments were meted out to other communists.

Organizational steps have been determined and are being taken in respect of the discredited officers. Colonel I.A. Chernykh has been transferred to the reserve. Before 1 May this year the military council, taking into account the inspection of the academy by the USSR Defense Ministry Main Inspectorate, will consider the district commander's conclusions on the recommendation of nomenklatura officer cadres and make a decision on them.